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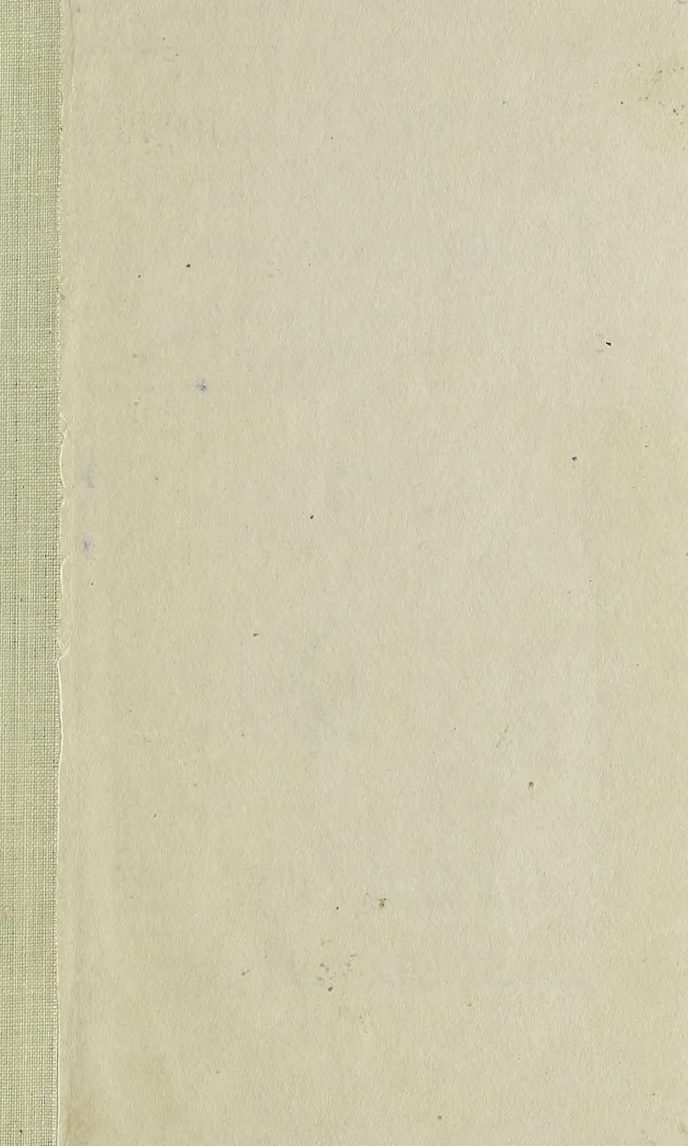
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APOLLONIUS
" RHODIUS
THE ARGONAUTICA
i v

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY
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e



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INTRODUCTION

MUCH has been written about the chronology of Alexandrian literature and the famous Library, founded by Ptolemy Soter, but the dates of the chief writers are still matters of conjecture. The birth of Apollonius Rhodius is placed by scholars at various times between 296 and 260 B.C., while the year of his death is equally uncertain. In fact, we have very little information on the subject. There are two "lives" of Apollonius in the Scholia, both derived from an earlier one which is lost. From these we learn that he was of Alexandria by birth,¹ that he lived in the time of the Ptolemies, and was a pupil of Callimachus; that while still a youth he composed and recited in public his *Argonautica*, and that the poem was condemned, in consequence of which he retired to Rhodes; that there he revised his

¹ "Or of Naucratis," according to Aelian and Athenaeus.

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poem, recited it with great applause, and hence called himself a Rhodian. The second "life" adds: "Some say that he returned to Alexandria and again recited his poem with the utmost success, so that he was honoured with the libraries of the Museum¹ and was buried with Callimachus." The last sentence may be interpreted by the notice of Suidas, who informs us that Apollonius was a contemporary of Eratosthenes, Euphorion and Timarchus, in the time of Ptolemy Euergetes, and that he succeeded Eratosthenes in the headship of the Alexandrian Library. Suidas also informs us elsewhere that Aristophanes at the age of sixty-two succeeded Apollonius in this office. Many modern scholars deny the "bibliothecariate" of Apollonius for chronological reasons, and there is considerable difficulty about it. The date of Callimachus' *Hymn to Apollo*, which closes with some lines (105-113) that are admittedly an allusion to Apollonius, may be put with much probability at 248 or 247 B.C. Apollonius must at that date have been at least twenty years old. Eratosthenes died 196-193 B.C. This would make Apollonius seventy-two to seventy-five when he succeeded Eratosthenes. This is not impossible, it is true, but it is difficult. But the difficulty is

¹ ὡς καὶ τῶν βιβλιοθηκῶν τοῦ μουσείου ἀξιωθῆναι αὐτόν.

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taken away if we assume with Ritschl that Eratosthenes resigned his office some years before his death, which allows us to put the birth of Apollonius at about 280, and would solve other difficulties. For instance, if the Librarians were buried within the precincts, it would account for the burial of Apollonius next to Callimachus—Eratosthenes being still alive. However that may be, it is rather arbitrary to take away the “bibliothecariate” of Apollonius, which is clearly asserted by Suidas, on account of chronological calculations which are themselves uncertain. Moreover, it is more probable that the words following “some say” in the second “life” are a remnant of the original life than a conjectural addition, because the first “life” is evidently incomplete, nothing being said about the end of Apollonius’ career.

The principal event in his life, so far as we know, was the quarrel with his master Callimachus, which was most probably the cause of his condemnation at Alexandria and departure to Rhodes. This quarrel appears to have arisen from differences of literary aims and taste, but, as literary differences often do, degenerated into the bitterest personal strife. There are references to the quarrel in the writings of both. Callimachus attacks Apollonius in the

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passage at the end of the *Hymn to Apollo*, already mentioned, also probably in some epigrams, but most of all in his *Ibis*, of which we have an imitation, or perhaps nearly a translation, in Ovid's poem of the same name. On the part of Apollonius there is a passage in the third book of the *Argonautica* (ll. 927-947) which is of a polemical nature and stands out from the context, and the well-known savage epigram upon Callimachus.¹ Various combinations have been attempted by scholars, notably by Couat, in his *Poésie Alexandrine*, to give a connected account of the quarrel, but we have not *data* sufficient to determine the order of the attacks, and replies, and counter-attacks. The *Ibis* has been thought to mark the termination of the feud on the curious ground that it was impossible for abuse to go further. It was an age when literary men were more inclined to comment on writings of the past than to produce original work. Literature was engaged in taking stock of itself. Homer was, of course, professedly admired by all, but more admired than imitated. Epic poetry was out of fashion and we find many epigrams of this period—some by Callimachus—directed against the "cyclic" poets, by whom were meant at that time those who were always dragging in con-

¹ Anth. Pal. xi. 275.

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ventional and commonplace epithets and phrases peculiar to epic poetry. Callimachus was in accordance with the spirit of the age when he proclaimed "a great book" to be "a great evil," and sought to confine poetical activity within the narrowest limits both of subject and space. Theocritus agreed with him, both in principle and practice. The chief characteristics of Alexandrianism are well summarized by Professor Robinson Ellis as follows: "Precision in form and metre, refinement in diction, a learning often degenerating into pedantry and obscurity, a resolute avoidance of everything commonplace in subject, sentiment or allusion." These traits are more prominent in Callimachus than in Apollonius, but they are certainly to be seen in the latter. He seems to have written the *Argonautica* out of bravado, to show that he *could* write an epic poem. But the influence of the age was too strong. Instead of the unity of an Epic we have merely a series of episodes, and it is the great beauty and power of one of these episodes that gives the poem its permanent value—the episode of the love of Jason and Medea. This occupies the greater part of the third book. The first and second books are taken up with the history of the voyage to Colchis, while the fourth book describes the return voyage. These portions

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constitute a metrical guide book, filled no doubt with many pleasing episodes, such as the rape of Hylas, the boxing match between Pollux and Amycus, the account of Cyzicus, the account of the Amazons, the legend of Talos, but there is no unity running through the poem beyond that of the voyage itself.

The Tale of the Argonauts had been told often before in verse and prose, and many authors' names are given in the Scholia to Apollonius, but their works have perished. The best known earlier account that we have is that in Pindar's fourth Pythian ode, from which Apollonius has taken many details. The subject was one for an epic poem, for its unity might have been found in the working out of the expiation due for the crime of Athamas; but this motive is barely mentioned by our author.

As we have it, the motive of the voyage is the command of Pelias to bring back the golden fleece, and this command is based on Pelias' desire to destroy Jason, while the divine aid given to Jason results from the intention of Hera to punish Pelias for his neglect of the honour due to her. The learning of Apollonius is not deep but it is curious: his general sentiments are not according to the Alexandrian standard, for they are simple and obvious. In the mass of material from which he had to choose

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the difficulty was to know what to omit, and much skill is shewn in fusing into a tolerably harmonious whole conflicting mythological and historical details. He interweaves with his narrative local legends and the founding of cities, accounts of strange customs, descriptions of works of art, such as that of Ganymede and Eros playing with knucklebones,¹ but prosaically calls himself back to the point from these pleasing digressions by such an expression as "but this would take me too far from my song." His business is the straightforward tale and nothing else. The astonishing geography of the fourth book reminds us of the interest of the age in that subject, stimulated no doubt by the researches of Eratosthenes and others.

The language is that of the conventional epic. Apollonius seems to have carefully studied Homeric glosses, and gives many examples of isolated uses, but his choice of words is by no means limited to Homer. He freely avails himself of Alexandrian words and late uses of Homeric words. Among his contemporaries Apollonius suffers from a comparison with Theocritus, who was a little his senior, but he was much admired by Roman writers who derived inspiration from the great classical writers of Greece by way of Alexandria. In fact Alexandria was a

¹ iii. 117-124.

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useful bridge between Athens and Rome. The *Argonautica* was translated by Varro Atacinus, copied by Ovid and Virgil, and minutely studied by Valerius Flaccus in his poem of the same name. Some of his finest passages have been appropriated and improved upon by Virgil by the divine right of superior genius.¹ The subject of love had been treated in the romantic spirit before the time of Apollonius in writings that have perished, for instance, in those of Antimachus of Colophon, but the *Argonautica* is perhaps the first poem still extant in which the expression of this spirit is developed with elaboration. The Medea of Apollonius is the direct precursor of the Dido of Virgil, and it is the pathos and passion of the fourth book of the Aeneid that keep alive many a passage of Apollonius.

¹ *e.g.* compare *Aen.* iv. 305 foll. with Ap. Rh. iv. 355 foll., *Aen.* iv. 327-330 with Ap. Rh. i. 897, 898, *Aen.* iv. 522 foll., with Ap. Rh. iii. 744 foll.

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Two editions of the *Argonautica* were published by Apollonius. Of these we have only the second. The Scholia preserve a few passages of the first edition, from which the second seems to have differed only slightly. The old opinion that our MSS. preserve any traces of the first edition has long been given up. The principal MSS. are the following :—

The Laurentian, also called the Medicean, XXXII. 9, of the early eleventh century, the excellent MS. at Florence which contains Sophocles, Aeschylus and Apollonius Rhodius. This is far the best authority for the text (here denoted by L).

The Guelferbytanus of the thirteenth century, which closely agrees with another Laurentian, XXXII. 16, of the same date (here denoted by G and L² respectively).

There were in the early eleventh century two types of text, the first being best known to us by L, the second by G and L² and the corrections made in L. Quotations in the *Etymologicum Magnum* agree with the second type and show that this is as old as the fifth century. Besides these there are, of inferior MSS., four Vatican and five Parisian which are occasionally useful. Most of them have Scholia; the best Scholia are those of L.

The principal editions are :—

Florence, 1496, 4to. This is the *editio princeps*, by Lascaris, based on L, with Scholia, a very rare book.

Venice, 1521, 8vo. The Aldine, by Franciscus Asulanus, with Scholia.

Paris, 1541, 8vo, based on the Parisian MSS.

Geneva, 1574, 4to, by Stephanus, with Scholia.

Leyden, 1641, 2 vols., 8vo, by J. Hölzlin, with a Latin version.

Oxford, 1777, 2 vols., 4to, by J. Shaw, with a Latin version.

Strassburg, 1780, 8vo and 4to, by R. F. P. Brunck.

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Rome, 1791-1794, 2 vols., 4to, by Flangini, with an Italian translation.

Leipzig, 1797, 8vo, by Ch. D. Beck, with a Latin version. A second volume, to contain the Scholia and a commentary, was never published.

Leipzig, 1810-1813, 2 vols., 8vo. A second edition of Brunck by G. H. Schäfer, with the Florentine and Parisian Scholia, the latter printed for the first time.

Leipzig, 1828, 8vo, by A. Wellauer, with the Scholia, both Florentine and Parisian.

Paris, 1841, 4to, by F. S. Lehrs, with a Latin version. In the Didot series.

Leipzig, 1852, 8vo, by R. Merkel, "ad cod. MS. Laurentianum." The Teubner Text.

Leipzig, 1854, 2 vols., 8vo, by R. Merkel. The second volume contains Merkel's prolegomena and the Scholia to L, edited by H. Keil.

Oxford, 1900, 8vo, by R. C. Seaton. In the "Scriptorum Classicorum Bibliotheca Oxoniensis" series.

The text of the present edition is, with a few exceptions, that of the Oxford edition prepared by me for the Delegates of the Clarendon Press, whom I hereby thank for their permission to use it.

The English translations of Apollonius are as follows:—

By E. B. Greene, by F. Fawkes, both 1780; by W. Preston, 1803. None of these are of value. There is a prose translation by E. P. Coleridge in the Bohn Series. The most recent and also the best is a verse translation by Mr. A. S. Way, 1901, in "The Temple Classics."

I may also mention the excellent translation in French by Prof. H. de La Ville de Mirmont of the University of Bordeaux, 1892.

Upon Alexandrian literature in general Couat's *Poésie Alexandrine sous les trois premiers Ptolemées*, 1882, may be recommended. Susemihl's *Geschichte der Griechischen Literatur in der Alexandinerzeit*, 2 vols., 1891, is a perfect storehouse of facts and authorities, but more adapted for reference than for general reading. Morris' *Life and Death of Jason* is a poem that in many passages singularly resembles Apollonius in its pessimistic tone and spirit.

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS
THE ARGONAUTICA

BOOK I



SUMMARY OF BOOK I

INVOCATION of *Phoebus* and cause of the expedition (1-22).—Catalogue of the *Argonauts* (23-233).—March of the heroes to the port: farewell of *Jason* and *Alcimedea* (234-305).—Preparations for departure and launching of *Argo*: sacrifice to *Apollo*: prediction of *Idmon* (306-447).—The festival, insolence of *Idas*, song of *Orpheus* and departure (448-558).—Voyage along the coast of *Thessaly* and across to *Lemnos* (559-608).—Recent history of *Lemnos* and stay of the *Argonauts* there: farewell of *Jason* and *Hypsipyle* (609-909).—Voyage from *Lemnos* by *Samothrace* to the *Propontis*: reception by the *Doliones* of *Cyzicus* (910-988).—Fight against the *Giants*: departure and return of the *Argonauts* to *Cyzicus*: sacrifice to *Rhea* on *Mt. Dindymum* (989-1152).—Arrival among the *Mysians*: rape of *Hylas*, which is announced to *Heracles* (1153-1260).—While *Heracles* and *Polyphemus* search for *Hylas* they are left behind (1261-1328).—The fate of *Heracles* and *Polyphemus*: arrival of *Argo* among the *Bebrycians* (1329-1362).

ΑΠΟΛΛΩΝΙΟΥ ΡΟΔΙΟΥ

ΑΡΓΟΝΑΥΤΙΚΩΝ

Α

Ἀρχόμενος σέο, Φοῖβε, παλαιγενέων κλέα φωτῶν
μνήσομαι, οἳ Πόντοιο κατὰ στόμα καὶ διὰ πέτρας
Κυανέας βασιλῆος ἐφημοσύνη Πελῖαο
χρύσειον μετὰ κῶας εὐζυγον ἤλασαν Ἀργῶ.

Τοίην γὰρ Πελὶς φάτιν ἔκλυεν, ὥς μιν ὀπίσσω
μοῖρα μένει στυγερή, τοῦδ' ἀνέρος, ὄντιν' ἴδοιτο
δημόθεν οἰοπέδιλον, ὑπ' ἐννεσίησι δαμῆναι.
δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτ' ἔτεην¹ κατὰ βάξιν Ἰήσων
χειμερίοιο ῥέεθρα κιῶν διὰ ποσσὶν Ἀναύρου
ἄλλο μὲν ἐξεσάωσεν ὑπ' ἱλύος, ἄλλο δ' ἔνερθεν 10
κάλλιπεν αὖθι πέδιλον ἐνισχύμενον προχοῇσιν.
ἵκετο δ' ἐς Πελίην αὐτοσχεδὸν ἀντιβολήσων
εἰλαπίνης, ἣν πατρὶ Ποσειδάωνι καὶ ἄλλοις
ῥέζε θεοῖς, Ἥρης δὲ Πελασγίδος οὐκ ἀλέγιζεν.
αἶψα δὲ τόνγ' ἐσιδὼν ἐφράσσατο, καὶ οἱ ἄεθλον
ἔντυε ναυτιλίας πολυκηδέος, ὅφρ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
ἦε καὶ ἀλλοδαποῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσι νόστον ὀλέσση.

¹ μετέπειτ' ἔτεην Merkel : μετέπειτα τεῆν Lx.

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BOOK I

BEGINNING with thee, O Phoebus, I will recount the famous deeds of men of old, who, at the behest of King Pelias, down through the mouth of Pontus and between the Cyanean rocks, sped well-benched Argo in quest of the golden fleece.

Such was the oracle that Pelias heard, that a hateful doom awaited him—to be slain at the prompting of the man whom he should see coming forth from the people with but one sandal. And no long time after, in accordance with that true report, Jason crossed the stream of wintry Anaurus on foot, and saved one sandal from the mire, but the other he left in the depths held back by the flood. And straightway he came to Pelias to share the banquet which the king was offering to his father Poseidon and the rest of the gods, though he paid no honour to Pelasgian Hera. Quickly the king saw him and pondered, and devised for him the toil of a troublous voyage, in order that on the sea or among strangers he might lose his home-return.

Νῆα μὲν οὖν οἱ πρόσθεν ἐπικλείουσιν¹ αἰοιοὶ
 "Αργον Ἀθηναίης καμέειν ὑποθημοσύνησιν.
 νῦν δ' ἂν ἐγὼ γενεήν τε καὶ οὖνομα μυθησαίμην 20
 ἡρώων, δολιχῆς τε πόρους ἄλός, ὅσσα τ' ἔρεξαν
 πλαζόμενοι· Μοῦσαι δ' ὑποφήτορες εἶεν αἰοιδῆς.

Πρώτᾳ νυν Ὀρφῆος μνησώμεθα, τὸν ῥά ποτ'
 αὐτῇ

Καλλιόπη Θρήικι φατίζεται εὐνηθεῖσα
 Οἰάγρῳ σκοπιῆς Πιμπληίδος ἄγχι τεκέσθαι.
 αὐτὰρ τόνγ' ἐνέπουσιν ἀτειρέας οὔρεσι πέτρας
 θέλξαι αἰοιδάων ἐνοπῇ ποταμῶν τε ῥέεθρα.
 φηγοὶ δ' ἀγριάδες, κείνης ἔτι σήματα μολπῆς,
 ἀκτῆς Θρηικίης Ζώνης ἔπι τηλεθώσαι
 ἐξείης στιχόωσιν ἐπήτριμοι, ἃς ὄγ' ἐπιπρὸ 30
 θελγομένας φόρμιγγι κατήγαγε Πιερίηθεν.
 Ὀρφέα μὲν δὴ τοῖον ἐὼν ἐπαρωγὸν ἀέθλων
 Αἰσονίδης Χείρωνος ἐφημοσύνησι πιθήσας
 δέξατο, Πιερίῃ Βιστωνίδι κοιρανέοντα.

"Ηλυθε δ' Ἀστερίων αὐτοσχεδόν, ὃν ῥά Κομήτης
 γείνατο δινηέντος ἐφ' ὕδασιν Ἀπιδανοῖο,
 Πειρεσιᾶς ὄρεος Φυλληίου ἀγχόθι ναίων,
 ἔνθα μὲν Ἀπιδανός τε μέγας καὶ δῖος Ἐνιπεὺς
 ἄμφω συμφορέονται, ἀπόπροθεν εἰς ἓν ἰόντες.

Λάρισαν δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσι λιπῶν Πολύφημος ἵκανε 40
 Εἰλατίδης, ὃς πρὶν μὲν ἐρισθενέων Λαπιθάων,
 ὀππότε Κενταύροις Λαπίθαι ἐπὶ θωρήσσοντο,
 ὀπλότερος πολέμιζε· τότ' αὖ βαρύτεσκέ οἱ ἦδη
 γυῖα, μένεν δ' ἔτι θυμὸς ἀρήιος, ὥς τὸ πάρος περ.

Οὐδὲ μὲν Ἴφικλος Φυλάκῃ ἐνὶ δηρὸν ἔλειπτο,
 μήτρως Αἰσονίδαο· κασιγνήτην γὰρ ὅπυιεν

¹ ἐπικλείουσιν Brunck : ἔτι κλείουσιν MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

The ship, as former bards relate, Argus wrought by the guidance of Athena. But now I will tell the lineage and the names of the heroes, and of the long sea-paths and the deeds they wrought in their wanderings; may the Muses be the inspirers of my song!

First then let us name Orpheus whom once Calliope bare, it is said, wedded to Thracian Oeagrus, near the Pimpleian height. Men say that he by the music of his songs charmed the stubborn rocks upon the mountains and the course of rivers. And the wild oak-trees to this day, tokens of that magic strain, that grow at Zone on the Thracian shore, stand in ordered ranks close together, the same which under the charm of his lyre he led down from Pieria. Such then was Orpheus whom Aeson's son welcomed to share his toils, in obedience to the behest of Cheiron, Orpheus ruler of Bistonian Pieria.

Straightway came Asterion, whom Cometes begat by the waters of eddying Apidanus; he dwelt at Peiresiae near the Phylleian mount, where mighty Apidanus and bright Enipeus join their streams, coming together from afar.

Next to them from Larisa came Polyphemus, son of Eilatus, who aforetime among the mighty Lapithae, when they were arming themselves against the Centaurs, fought in his younger days; now his limbs were grown heavy with age, but his martial spirit still remained, even as of old.

Nor was Iphiclus long left behind in Phylace, the uncle of Aeson's son; for Aeson had wedded his

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Αἴσων Ἀλκιμέδην Φυλακῆίδα· τῆς μιν ἀνώγει
 πηροσύνη καὶ κῆδος ἐνικρινθῆναι ὁμίλῳ.

Οὐδὲ Φεραῖς Ἀδμητος ἐνρρήνεσσιν ἀνάσσω
 μίμνεν ὑπὸ σκοπιῇν ὄρεος Χαλκωδονίοιο.

50

Οὐδ' Ἀλόπη μίμνον πολυλήιοι Ἑρμείας
 υἱέες εὖ δεδαῶτε δόλους, Ἑρυτος καὶ Ἐχίων,
 τοῖσι δ' ἐπὶ τρίτατος γνωτὸς κίε νισσομένοισιν
 Αἰθαλίδης· καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐπ' Ἀμφρυσσοῖο ῥοῆσιν
 Μυρμιδόνος κούρη Φθιάς τέκεν Εὐπολέμεια·
 τῷ δ' αὖτ' ἐκγεγάτην Μενετηίδος Ἀντιανείρης.

Ἦλυθε δ' ἀφνειὴν προλιπὼν Γυρτῶνα Κόρωνος
 Καινείδης, ἐσθλὸς μὲν, ἐοῦ δ' οὐ πατρὸς ἀμείνων.
 Καινέα γὰρ ζῶν περ ἔτι κλείουσιν αἰοῖδοι
 Κενταύροισιν ὀλέσθαι, ὅτε σφέας οἶος ἀπ' ἄλλων 60
 ἦλασ' ἀριστήων· οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν ὀρμηθέντες
 οὔτε μιν ἀγκλῖναι προτέρω σθένον, οὔτε δαΐξαι·
 ἀλλ' ἄρρηκτος ἄκαμπτos ἐδύσετο νεῖοθι γαίης,
 θεινόμενος στιβαρῆσι καταΐγδην ἐλάττησιν.

Ἦλυθε δ' αὖ Μόψος Τιταρήσιος, ὃν περὶ πάντων
 Λητοΐδης ἐδίδαξε θεοπροπίας οἰωνῶν·
 ἠδὲ καὶ Εὐρυδάμας Κτιμένου πάϊς· ἄγχι δὲ λίμνης
 Ξυνιάδος Κτιμένην Δολοπηίδα ναιετάασκεν.

Καὶ μὴν Ἀκτωρ νῆα Μενοίτιον ἐξ Ὀπόεντος
 ὦρσεν, ἀριστήεσσι σὺν ἀνδράσιν ὄφρα νέοιτο.

70

Εἶπετο δ' Εὐρυτίων τε καὶ ἀλκίχης Ἐριβώτης,
 υἱες ὁ μὲν Τελέοντος, ὁ δ' Ἴρου Ἀκτορίδαο·
 ἦτοι ὁ μὲν Τελέοντος ἐνκλειῆς Ἐριβώτης,
 Ἴρου δ' Εὐρυτίων· σὺν καὶ τρίτος ἦεν Ὀιλεὺς,
 ἕξοχος ἠγορέην καὶ ἐπαΐξαι μετόπισθεν
 εὖ δεδαῶς δῆοισιν, ὅτε κλίνωσι φάλαγγας.

Αὐτὰρ ἀπ' Εὐβοίης Κάνθος κίε, τὸν ῥα Κάνηθος
 πέμπευ Ἀβαντιάδης λεληθμένον· οὐ μὲν ἔμελλεν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

sister Alcimedea, daughter of Phylacus: his kinship with her bade him be numbered in the host.

Nor did Admetus, the lord of Pherae rich in sheep, stay behind beneath the peak of the Chalcodonian mount.

Nor at Alope stayed the sons of Hermes, rich in corn-land, well skilled in craftiness, Erytus and Echion, and with them on their departure their kinsman Aethalides went as the third; him near the streams of Amphrysus Eupolemeia bare, the daughter of Myrmidon, from Phthia; the two others were sprung from Antianeira, daughter of Menetes.

From rich Gyrton came Coronus, son of Caeneus, brave, but not braver than his father. For bards relate that Caeneus though still living perished at the hands of the Centaurs, when apart from other chiefs he routed them; and they, rallying against him, could neither bend nor slay him; but unconquered and unflinching he passed beneath the earth, overwhelmed by the downrush of massy pines.

There came too Titaresian Mopsus, whom above all men the son of Leto taught the augury of birds; and Eurydamas the son of Ctimenus; he dwelt at Dolopian Ctimene near the Xynian lake.

Moreover Actor sent his son Menoetius from Opus that he might accompany the chiefs.

Eurytion followed and strong Eribotes, one the son of Teleon, the other of Irus, Actor's son; the son of Teleon renowned Eribotes, and of Irus Eurytion. A third with them was Oileus, peerless in courage and well skilled to attack the flying foe, when they break their ranks.

Now from Euboea came Canthus eager for the quest, whom Canethus son of Abas sent; but he was

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νοστήσειν Κήρινθον ὑπότροπος. αἶσα γὰρ ἦεν
αὐτὸν ὁμῶς Μόψον τε δαίμονα μαντοσυνάων 80
πλαγχθέντας Λιβύης ἐνὶ πείρασι δηωθῆναι.
ὥς οὐκ ἀνθρώποισι κακὸν¹ μήκιστον ἐπαυρεῖν,
ὁππότε κακείνους Λιβύῃ ἐνὶ ταρχύσαντο,
τόσσον ἐκάς Κόλχων, ὅσσον τέ περ ἡελίοιο
μεσσηγὺς δύσιές τε καὶ ἀντολαὶ εἰσορόωνται.

Τῷ δ' ἄρ' ἐπὶ Κλυτίος τε καὶ Ἰφίτος ἡγερέθοντο,
Οἰχαλῆς ἐπίουροι, ἀπηνέος Εὐρύτου νῆες,
Εὐρύτου, ᾧ πόρε τόξον Ἐκηβόλος· οὐδ' ἀπόνητο
δωτίνης· αὐτῷ γὰρ ἐκὼν ἐρίδηνε δοτῆρι.

Τοῖσι δ' ἐπ' Αἰακίδαί μετεκίαθον· οὐ μὲν ἄμ' 90
ἄμφω,

οὐδ' ὁμόθεν· νόσφιν γὰρ ἀλευάμενοι κατένασθεν
Αἰγίνης, ὅτε Φῶκον ἀδελφεὸν ἐξενάριξαν
ἀφραδίῃ. Τελαμὼν μὲν ἐν Ἀτθίδι νάσσατο νήσῳ·
Πηλεὺς δὲ Φθίῃ ἐνὶ δώματα ναῖε λιασθεῖς.

Τοῖς δ' ἐπὶ Κεκροπίηθεν ἀρήιος ἦλυθε Βούτης,
παῖς ἀγαθοῦ Τελέοντος, ἐνμμελῆς τε Φάληρος.
Ἄλκων μιν προέηκε πατὴρ ἐός· οὐ μὲν ἔτ' ἄλλους
γῆρας νῆας ἔχεν βιότοιό τε κηδεμονῆας.

ἀλλὰ ἐτηλύγετόν περ ὁμῶς καὶ μοῦνον εἶντα 100
πέμπειν, ἵνα θρασέεσσι μεταπρέποι ἡρώεσσιν.
Θησέα δ', ὃς περὶ πάντας Ἐρεχθεΐδας ἐκέκαστο,
Ταιναρίην αἰδὴλος ὑπὸ χθόνα δεσμὸς ἔρκεν,
Πειρίθῳ ἐσπόμενον κείνην² ὁδόν· ἥ τέ κεν ἄμφω
ῥήϊτερον καμάτοιο τέλος πάντεσσιν ἔθεντο.

Τῖφυσ δ' Ἀγνιάδης Σιφαέα κάλλιπε δῆμον

¹ κακὸν scholia and four Parisian: κακὸν corrected into κακῶν G: κακῶν all other MSS.

² κείνην corrected into κοινήν by another hand G: κειήν L: κοινήν two Parisian.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

not destined to return to Cerinthus. For fate had ordained that he and Mopsus, skilled in the seer's art, should wander and perish in the furthest ends of Libya. For no ill is too remote for mortals to incur, seeing that they buried them in Libya, as far from the Colchians as is the space that is seen between the setting and the rising of the sun.

To him Clytius and Iphitus joined themselves, the warders of Oechalia, sons of Eurytus the ruthless, Eurytus, to whom the Far-shooting god gave his bow; but he had no joy of the gift; for of his own choice he strove even with the giver.

After them came the sons of Aeacus, not both together, nor from the same spot; for they settled far from Aegina in exile, when in their folly they had slain their brother Phocus. Telamon dwelt in the Attic island; but Peleus departed and made his home in Phthia.

After them from Cecropia came warlike Butes, son of brave Teleon, and Phalerus of the ashen spear. Alcon his father sent him forth; yet no other sons had he to care for his old age and livelihood. But him, his well-beloved and only son, he sent forth that amid bold heroes he might shine conspicuous. But Theseus, who surpassed all the sons of Erechtheus, an unseen bond kept beneath the land of Taenarus, for he had followed that path with Peirithous; assuredly both would have lightened for all the fulfilment of their toil.

Tiphys, son of Hagnias, left the Siphaean people of

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

Θεσπιέων, ἐσθλὸς μὲν ὀρινόμενον προδαῖναι
 κῦμ' ἄλὸς εὐρείης, ἐσθλὸς δ' ἀνέμοιο θυέλλας
 καὶ πλόον ἡλίου τε καὶ ἀστέρι τεκμήρασθαι.
 αὐτὴ μιν Τριτωνὶς ἀριστήων ἐς ὄμιλον
 ὤρσεν Ἀθηναίη, μετὰ δ' ἦλυθεν ἐλδομένοισιν.
 αὐτὴ γὰρ καὶ νῆα θοὴν κύμε· σὺν δέ οἱ Ἄργος
 τεύξεν Ἀρεστορίδης κείνης ὑποθημοσύνησιν.
 τῷ καὶ πασάων προφερεστάτῃ ἔπλετο νηῶν,
 ὅσσαι ὑπ' εἰρεσίησιν ἐπειρήσαντο θαλάσσης.

110

Φλίας δ' αὐτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν Ἀραιθυρέθην ἵκανεν,
 ἔνθ' ἀφνειὸς ἔναιε Διωνύσοιο ἔκῃτι,
 πατρὸς ἐοῦ, πηγῇσιν ἐφέστιος Ἀσωποῖο.

Ἄργόθεν αὖ Ταλαὸς καὶ Ἀρήιος, υἱὲ Βίαντος,
 ἦλυθον ἰφθιμός τε Λεώδοκος, οὓς τέκε Πηρῶ
 Νηληΐς· τῆς δ' ἀμφὶ δύνῃ ἐμόγησε βαρεῖαν
 Αἰολίδης σταθμοῖσιν ἐν Ἰφίκλοιο Μελάμπους.

120

Οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδὲ βίην κρατερόφρονος Ἡρακλῆος
 πευθόμεθ' Αἰσονίδαο λιλαιομένου ἀθερίξαι.
 ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ αἶε βάξιν ἀγειρομένων ἡρώων,
 νεῖον ἀπ' Ἀρκαδίας Λυρκήιον¹ Ἄργος ἀμείψας
 τὴν ὁδόν, ἧ ζῶν φέρε κάπριον, ὅς ῥ' ἐνὶ βήσσης
 φέρβετο Λαμπείης, Ἐρυμάνθιον ἀμ μέγα τίφος,
 τὸν μὲν ἐνὶ πρώτῃσι Μυκηναίων ἀγορῇσιν
 δεσμοῖς ἰλλόμενον μεγάλων ἀπεθήκατο νότων·
 αὐτὸς δ' ἧ ἰότητι παρέκ νόον Εὐρυσθῆος
 ὠρμήθη· σὺν καὶ οἱ Ὕλας κίεν, ἐσθλὸς ὀπάων,
 πρωθήβης, ἰὼν τε φορεὺς φύλακός τε βιοῖο.

130

Τῷ δ' ἐπὶ δὴ θείοιο κίεν Δαναοῖο γενέθλη,
 Ναύπλιος· ἧ γὰρ ἔην Κλυτουήου Ναυβολίδαο·
 Ναύβολος αὖ Λέρνον· Λέρνον γε μὲν ἴδμεν ἔοντα

¹ Λυρκήιον scholia : Λυγκήιον MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

the Thespians, well skilled to foretell the rising wave on the broad sea, and well skilled to infer from sun and star the stormy winds and the time for sailing. Tritonian Athena herself urged him to join the band of chiefs, and he came among them a welcome comrade. She herself too fashioned the swift ship; and with her Argus, son of Arestor, wrought it by her counsels. Wherefore it proved the most excellent of all ships that have made trial of the sea with oars.

After them came Phlias from Araethyrea, where he dwelt in affluence by the favour of his father Dionysus, in his home by the springs of Asopus.

From Argos came Talaus and Areius, sons of Bias, and mighty Leodocus, all of whom Pero daughter of Neleus bore; on her account the Aeolid Melampus endured sore affliction in the steading of Iphiclus.

Nor do we learn that Heracles of the mighty heart disregarded the eager summons of Aeson's son. But when he heard a report of the heroes' gathering and had reached Lyrceian Argos from Arcadia by the road along which he carried the boar alive that fed in the thickets of Lampeia, near the vast Erymanthian swamp, the boar bound with chains he put down from his huge shoulders at the entrance to the market-place of Mycenae; and himself of his own will set out against the purpose of Eurystheus; and with him went Hylas, a brave comrade, in the flower of youth, to bear his arrows and to guard his bow.

Next to him came a scion of the race of divine Danaus, Nauplius. He was the son of Clytonaeus son of Naubolus; Naubolus was son of Lernus;

Προίτου Ναυπλιάδαο· Ποσειδάωνι δὲ κούρη
πρίν ποτ' Ἀμνυμῶνη Δαναῖς τέκεν εὐνηθεῖσα
Ναύπλιον, ὃς περὶ πάντας ἐκαίνυτο ναυτιλίησιν.

Ἰδμων δ' ὑστάτιος μετεκίαθεν, ὅσσοι ἔναιον
Ἄργος, ἐπεὶ δεδαῶς τὸν ἐὼν μόρον οἰωνοῖσιν 140
ἦε, μὴ οἱ δῆμος ἐκλείης ἀγάσαιτο.

οὐ μὲν ὅγ' ἦεν Ἀβαντος ἐτήτυμον, ἀλλὰ μιν αὐτὸς
γείνατο κυδαλίμοις ἐναρίθμιον Αἰολίδησιν
Λητοίδης· αὐτὸς δὲ θεοπροπίας ἐδίδαξεν
οἰωνούς τ' ἀλέγειν ἢ δ' ἔμπυρα σήματ' ἰδέσθαι.

Καὶ μὲν Αἰτωλὶς κρατερόν Πολυδεύκεα Λήδη
Κάστορά τ' ὠκυπόδων ὥρσεν δεδαημένον ἵππων
Σπάρτηθεν· τοὺς δ' ἤγε δόμοις ἐνὶ Τυνδαρείο
τηλυγέτους ὠδῖνι μιῇ τέκεν· οὐδ' ἀπίθησεν 150
νισσομένοις· Ζηνὸς γὰρ ἐπάξια μῆδετο λέκτρων.

Οἳ τ' Ἀφαρητιάδαι Λυγκεὺς καὶ ὑπέρβιος Ἴδας
Ἀρήνηθεν ἔβαν, μεγάλη περιθαρσέες ἀλκῇ
ἀμφότεροι· Λυγκεὺς δὲ καὶ ὄξυτάτοις ἐκέκαστο
ὄμμασιν, εἰ ἐτεόν γε πέλει κλέος, ἀνέρα κεῖνον
ῥηιδίως καὶ νέρθε κατὰ χθονὸς αὐγάζεσθαι.

Σὺν δὲ Περικλύμενος Νηλῆιος ὥρτο νέεσθαι,
πρεσβύτατος παίδων, ὅσσοι Πύλῳ ἐξεγένοντο
Νηλῆος θείοιο· Ποσειδάων δὲ οἱ ἀλκὴν
δῶκεν ἀπειρεσίην ἢ δ' ὅττι κεν ἀρήσαιο 160
μαρνάμενος, τὸ πέλεσθαι ἐνὶ ξυνοχῇ πολέμοιο.

Καὶ μὲν Ἀμφιδάμας Κηφεὺς τ' ἴσαν Ἀρκαδί-
ηθεν,

οἱ Τεγέην καὶ κλῆρον Ἀφειδάντειον ἔναιον,
νῆε δ' ὧς Ἀλεοῦ· τρίτατός γε μὲν ἔσπετ' ἰοῦσιν
Ἀγκαῖος, τὸν μὲν ῥα πατὴρ Λυκόοργος ἔπεμπεν,
τῶν ἄμφω γνωτὸς προγενέστερος· ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἦδη

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

Lernus we know was the son of Proetus son of Nauplius; and once Amymone daughter of Danaus, wedded to Poseidon, bare Nauplius, who surpassed all men in naval skill.

Idmon came last of all them that dwelt at Argos, for though he had learnt his own fate by augury, he came, that the people might not grudge him fair renown. He was not in truth the son of Abas, but Leto's son himself begat him to be numbered among the illustrious Aeolids; and himself taught him the art of prophecy—to pay heed to birds and to observe the signs of the burning sacrifice.

Moreover Aetolian Leda sent from Sparta strong Polydeuces and Castor, skilled to guide swift-footed steeds; these her dearly-loved sons she bare at one birth in the house of Tyndareus; nor did she forbid their departure; for she had thoughts worthy of the bride of Zeus.

The sons of Aphareus, Lynceus and proud Idas, came from Arene, both exulting in their great strength; and Lynceus too excelled in keenest sight, if the report is true that that hero could easily direct his sight even beneath the earth.

And with them Neleian Periclymenus set out to come, eldest of all the sons of godlike Neleus who were born at Pylos; Poseidon had given him boundless strength and granted him that whatever shape he should crave during the fight, that he should take in the stress of battle.

Moreover from Arcadia came Amphidamas and Cepheus, who inhabited Tegea and the allotment of Apeidas, two sons of Aleus; and Ancaeus followed them as the third, whom his father Lycurgus sent, the

γηράσκοντ' Ἀλεὼν λίπετ' ἄμ πόλιν ὄφρα κομίζοι,
παῖδα δ' ἐὼν σφετέροισι κασιγνήτοισιν ὄπασσεν.
βῆ δ' ὄγε Μαιναλῆς ἄρκτου δέρος, ἀμφίτομόν τε
δεξιτερῇ πάλλων πέλεκυν μέγαν. ἔντεα γάρ οἱ
πατροπάτωρ Ἀλεὼς μυχάτῃ ἐνέκρυψε καλιῇ, 170
αἱ κέν πως ἔτι καὶ τὸν ἐρητύσειε νέεσθαι.

Βῆ δὲ καὶ Αὐγείης, ὃν δὴ φάτις Ἡελίοιο
ἔμμεναι. Ἡλείοισι δ' ὄγ' ἀνδράσιν ἐμβασίλευεν,
ὄλβω κυδιῶν· μέγα δ' ἴετο Κολχίδα γαῖαν
αὐτόν τ' Αἰήτην ιδέειν σημάντορα Κόλχων.

Ἀστέριος δὲ καὶ Ἀμφίων Ὑπερασίῳ υἱὲς
Πελλήνης ἀφίκανον Ἀχαιίδος, ἣν ποτε Πέλλης
πατροπάτωρ ἐπόλισσεν ἐπ' ὄφρυσιν Αἰγιαλοῖο.

Ταίναρον αὐτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσι λιπὼν Εὐφημος ἵκανε, 180
τόν ῥα Ποσειδάωνι ποδωκνέστατον ἄλλων
Εὐρώπῃ Τιτυοῖο μεγασθενέος τέκε κούρη.
κεῖνος ἀνὴρ καὶ πόντου ἐπὶ γλαυκοῖο θέεσκεν
οἴδματος, οὐδὲ θεοὺς βάπτειν πόδας, ἀλλ' ὅσον
ἄκροισι

ἔχνεσι τεγγόμενος διερῇ πεφόρητο κελεύθῳ.

Καὶ δ' ἄλλω δύο παῖδε Ποσειδάωνος ἵκοντο·
ἦτοι ὁ μὲν πτολίεθρον ἀγαυοῦ Μιλήτοιο
νοσφισθεὶς Ἐργῖνος, ὁ δ' Ἰμβρασίης ἔδος Ἥρης,
Παρθενίην, Ἀγκαῖος ὑπέρβιος· ἵστορε δ' ἄμφω
ἡμὲν ναυτιλίας, ἡδ' ἄρεος εὐχετόωντο.

Οἰνεΐδης δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἀφορμηθεὶς Καλυδῶνος 190
ἀλκῆεις Μελέαγρος ἀνήλυθε, Λαοκόων τε,
Λαοκόων Οἰνῆος ἀδελφεός, οὐ μὲν ἰῆς γε
μητέρος· ἀλλὰ ἐθῆσσα γυνὴ τέκε· τὸν μὲν ἄρ'

Οἰνεὺς

ἦδ' ἡ γηραλέον κοσμήτορα παιδὸς ἴαλλεν·
ὦδ' ἔτι κουρίζων περιθαρσέα δύνεν ὄμιλον

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

brother older than both. But he was left in the city to care for Aleus now growing old, while he gave his son to join his brothers. Ancaeus went clad in the skin of a Maenalian bear, and wielding in his right hand a huge two-edged battleaxe. For his armour his grandsire had hidden in the house's innermost recess, to see if he might by some means still stay his departure.

There came also Augeias, whom fame declared to be the son of Helios ; he reigned over the Eleans, glorying in his wealth ; and greatly he desired to behold the Colchian land and Aetes himself the ruler of the Colchians.

Asterius and Amphion, sons of Hyperasius, came from Achæan Pellene, which once Pelles their grand-sire founded on the brows of Aegialus.

After them from Taenarus came Euphemus whom, most swift-footed of men, Europe, daughter of mighty Tityos, bare to Poseidon. He was wont to skim the swell of the grey sea, and wetted not his swift feet, but just dipping the tips of his toes was borne on the watery path.

Yea, and two other sons of Poseidon came ; one Erginus, who left the citadel of glorious Miletus, the other proud Ancaeus, who left Parthenie, the seat of Imbrasion Hera ; both boasted their skill in sea-craft and in war.

After them from Calydon came the son of Oeneus, strong Meleagrus, and Laocoon—Laocoon the brother of Oeneus, though not by the same mother, for a serving-woman bare him ; him, now growing old, Oeneus sent to guard his son : thus Meleagrus, still a youth, entered the bold band of heroes. No other

ἡρώων. τοῦ δ' οὐτιν' ὑπέρτερον ἄλλον οἶω,
νόσφιν γ' Ἑρακλῆος, ἐπελθέμεν, εἴ κ' ἔτι μῦνον
αὐθι μένων λυκάβαντα μετετράφη Αἰτωλοῖσιν.
καὶ μὴν οἱ μήτρως αὐτὴν ὁδόν, εὖ μὲν ἄκοντι,
εὖ δὲ καὶ ἐν σταδίῃ δεδαημένος ἀντιφέρεσθαι,
Θεστιάδης Ἰφικλος ἐφωμάρτησε κίοντι.

200

Σὺν δὲ Πυλαιμόνιος Λέρνου πάϊς Ὠλενίοιο,
Λέρνου ἐπίκλησιν, γενεὴν γε μὲν Ἑφαίστοιο·
τύνεκ' ἦν πόδα σιφλός· ἀτὰρ δέμας οὐ κέ τις ἔτλη
ἡγορέην τ' ὀνόσασθαι, ὃ καὶ μεταρίθμιος ἦεν
πᾶσιν ἀριστήεσσιν, Ἰήσωνι κῦδος ἀέξων.

Ἐκ δ' ἄρα Φωκίων κίεν Ἰφιτος Ὀρνυτίδαο
Ναυβόλου ἐκγεγαώς· ξεῖνος δέ οἱ ἔσκε πάροιθεν,
ἦμος ἔβη Πυθώδε θεοπροπίας ἐρεείνων
ναυτιλίας· τόθι γάρ μιν ἐοῖς ὑπέδεκτο δόμοισιν.

210

Ζήτης αὖ Κάλαις τε Βορήιοι νῆες ἵκοντο,
οὓς ποτ' Ἐρεχθίδι Βορὴ τέκεν Ὠρεΐθυια
ἐσχατιῇ Θρήκης δυσχειμέρου· ἐνθ' ἄρα τήνγε
Θρηίκιος Βορέης ἀνερείψατο Κεκροπίηθεν
Ἴλισσοῦ προπάροιθε χορῶ ἔνι δινεύουσιν.
καὶ μιν ἄγων ἔκαθεν, Σαρπηδονίην ὅθι πέτρην
κλείουσιν, ποταμοῖο παρὰ ῥόον Ἐργίνοιο,
λυγαίοις ἐδάμασσε περὶ νεφέεσσι καλύψας.
τὼ μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισι ποδῶν ἐκάτερθεν ἐρεμνὰς
σεῖον ἀειρομένω πτέρυγας, μέγα θάμβος ιδέσθαι,
χρυσείαις φολίδεσσι διαυγέας· ἀμφὶ δὲ νώτοις
κράατος ἐξ ὑπάτοιο καὶ αὐχένος ἔνθα καὶ εἴθα
κυνάεαι δονέοντο μετὰ πνοιῇσιν ἔθειραι.

220

Οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' αὐτοῖο πάϊς μενέαιεν Ἀκαστος
ἰφθίμου Πελίας δόμοις ἔνι πατρὸς ἐῆος¹

¹ ἐοῖο G.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

had come superior to him, I ween, except Heracles, if for one year more he had tarried and been nurtured among the Aetolians. Yea, and his uncle, well skilled to fight whether with the javelin or hand to hand, Iphiclus son of Thestius, bare him company on his way.

With him came Palaemonius, son of Olenian Lernus, of Lernus by repute, but his birth was from Hephaestus ; and so he was crippled in his feet, but his bodily frame and his valour no one would dare to scorn. Wherefore he was numbered among all the chiefs, winning fame for Jason.

From the Phocians came Iphitus sprung from Naubolus son of Ornytus ; once he had been his host when Jason went to Pytho to ask for a response concerning his voyage ; for there he welcomed him in his own halls.

Next came Zetes and Calais, sons of Boreas, whom once Oreithyia, daughter of Erechtheus, bare to Boreas on the verge of wintry Thrace ; thither it was that Thracian Boreas snatched her away from Cecropia as she was whirling in the dance, hard by Ilissus' stream. And, carrying her far off, to the spot that men called the rock of Sarpedon, near the river Erginus, he wrapped her in dark clouds and forced her to his will. There they were making their dusky wings quiver upon their ankles on both sides as they rose, a great wonder to behold, wings that gleamed with golden scales : and round their backs from the top of the head and neck, hither and thither, their dark tresses were being shaken by the wind.

No, nor had Acastus son of mighty Pelias himself any will to stay behind in the palace of his brave sire,

μιμνάζειν, "Αργος τε θεᾶς ὑποεργὸς Ἀθήνης·
ἀλλ' ἄρα καὶ τὼ μέλλον ἐνικρινθῆναι ὁμίλῃ.

Τόσσοι ἄρ' Αἰσονίδῃ συμμήστορες ἠγερέθοντο.
τοὺς μὲν ἀριστῆας Μινύας περιναιετάοντες
κίκλησκον μάλα πάντας, ἐπεὶ Μινύας θυγατρῶν 230
οἱ πλεῖστοι καὶ ἄριστοι ἀφ' αἵματος εὐχετόωντο
ἔμμεναι· ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν Ἰήсона γείνατο μήτηρ
Ἀλκιμέδῃ, Κλυμένης Μινυηίδος ἐκγεγαυῖα.

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δμῶεσσιν ἐπαρτέα πάντ' ἐτέτυκτο,
ὅσσα περ ἐντύνονται ἐπαρτέες ἔνδοθι νῆες,
εὖτ' ἂν ἄγῃ χρέος ἄνδρας ὑπεῖρ ἅλα ναυτίλλεσθαι,
δὴ τότε ἴσαν μετὰ νῆα δι' ἄστεος, ἔνθα περ ἀκταὶ
κλείονται Παγασαὶ Μαγνήτιδες· ἀμφὶ δὲ λαῶν
πληθὺς σπερχομένων¹ ἄμυδις θέεν· οἱ δὲ φαεινοὶ
ἀστέρες ὥς νεφέεσσι μετέπρεπον· ὦδε δ' ἕκαστος 240
ἔννεπεν εἰσορόων σὺν τεύχεσιν αἰσσοντας·

Ἰ Ζεῦ ἄνα, τίς Πελῖας νόος; πόθι τόσσον ὄμιλον
ἡρώων γαίης Παναχαΐδος ἔκτοθι βάλλει;
αὐτῇμάρ κε δόμους ὀλοῶ πυρὶ δηώσειαν
Αἰήτεω, ὅτε μή σφιν ἐκὼν δέρος ἐγγυαλίξῃ.
ἀλλ' οὐ φυκτὰ κέλευθα, πόνος δ' ἀπρηκτος ἰοῦσιν·

ὣς φάσαν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κατὰ πτόλιν· αἰ δὲ
γυναῖκες

πολλὰ μάλ' ἀθανάτοισιν ἐς αἰθέρα χεῖρας ἄειρον,
εὐχόμεναι νόστοιο τέλος θυμηδὲς ὀπίσσαι.
ἄλλη δ' εἰς ἐτέρην ὀλοφύρετο δακρυχέουσα· 250

Ἰ Δειλὴ Ἀλκιμέδῃ, καὶ σοὶ κακὸν ὀψέ περ ἔμπησ
ἦλυθεν, οὐδ' ἐτέλεσσας ἐπ' ἀγλαίῃ βιότοιο.

¹ σπερχομένων Meineke : ἐπερχομένων MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

nor Argus, helper of the goddess Athena; but they too were ready to be numbered in the host.

So many then were the helpers who assembled to join the son of Aeson. All the chiefs the dwellers thereabout called Minyae, for the most and the bravest avowed that they were sprung from the blood of the daughters of Minyas; thus Jason himself was the son of Alcimede who was born of Clymene the daughter of Minyas. 2

Now when all things had been made ready by the thralls, all things that fully-equipped ships are furnished withal when men's business leads them to voyage across the sea, then the heroes took their way through the city to the ship where it lay on the strand that men call Magnesian Pagasae; and a crowd of people hastening rushed together; but the heroes shone like gleaming stars among the clouds; and each man as he saw them speeding along with their armour would say:

"King Zeus, what is the purpose of Pelias? Whither is he driving forth from the Panachaeon land so great a host of heroes? On one day they would waste the palace of Aeetes with baleful fire, should he not yield them the fleece of his own goodwill. But the path is not to be shunned, the toil is hard for those who venture."

Thus they spake here and there throughout the city; but the women often raised their hands to the sky in prayer to the immortals to grant a return, their hearts' desire. And one with tears thus lamented to her fellow:

"Wretched Alcimede, evil has come to thee at last though late, thou hast not ended with splendour

Αἴσων αὖ μέγα δὴ τι δυσάμμορος. ἦ τέ οἱ ἦεν
βέλτερον, εἰ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐνὶ κτερέεσσιν ἔλυσθεις
νειόθι γαίης κείτο, κακῶν ἔτι νῆις ἀέθλων.
ὥς ὄφελεν καὶ Φρίξον, ὅτ' ὤλετο παρθένος "Ελλη,
κῦμα μέλαιν κριῶ ἅμ' ἐπικλύσαι· ἀλλὰ καὶ αὐδὴν
ἀνδρομένην προέηκε κακὸν τέρας, ὥς κεν ἀνίας
'Αλκιμέδη μετόπισθε καὶ ἄλγεα μυρία θείη.

Αἰ μὲν ἄρ' ὥς ἀγόρευον ἐπὶ προμολῇσι κiónτων. 260
ἤδη δὲ δμῶές τε πολεῖς δμωαί τ' ἀγέροντο,
μήτηρ δ' ἀμφ' αὐτὸν βεβολημένη. ὀξὺ δ' ἐκάστην
δύνειν ἄχος· σὺν δέ σφι πατήρ ὀλοῶ ὑπὸ γήραι
ἐντυπὰς ἐν λεχέεσσι καλυψάμενος γοάασκεν.
αὐτὰρ ὁ τῶν μὲν ἔπειτα κατεπρήνυν ἀνίας
θαρσύνων, δμῶεσσι δ' ἀρήια τεύχε' αἰερεῖν
πέφραδεν· οἱ δὲ τὰ¹ σίγα κατηφέες ἡείρουτο.
μήτηρ δ' ὥς τὰ πρῶτ' ἐπεχεύατο πῆχεε παιδί,
ὥς ἔχετο κλαίους' ἀδινώτερον, ἥύτε κούρη
οἰόθεν ἀσπασίως πολὴν τροφὸν ἀμφιπεσοῦσα 270
μύρεται, ἥ οὐκ εἰσὶν ἔτ' ἄλλοι κηδεμονῆες,
ἀλλ' ὑπὸ μητρὶνῇ βίοτον βαρὺν ἡγηλάζει·
καὶ ἐ νέον πολέεσσιν ὀνειδέσιν ἐστυφέλιξεν,
τῇ δέ τ' ὀδυρομένη δέδετα κέαρ ἐνδοθεν ἄτη,
οὐδ' ἔχει ἐκφλύξαι τόσσον γόον, ὅσσον ὀρεχθεῖ·
ὥς ἀδινὸν κλαίεσκεν ἐὼν παῖδ' ἀγκὰς ἔχουσα
'Αλκιμέδη, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος φάτο κηδοσύνησιν·

‘Αἰθ' ὄφελον κεῖν' ἡμαρ, ὅτ' ἐξεπόντος ἄκουσα
δειλὴ ἐγὼ Πελίαο κακὴν βασιλῆος ἐφετμήν,
αὐτίκ' ἀπὸ ψυχὴν μεθέμεν, κηδέων τε λαθέσθαι, 280
ὄφρ' αὐτός με τεῆσι φίλαις ταρχύσας χερσίν,

¹ δὲ τὰ Merkel: δὲ MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

of life. Aeson too, ill-fated man! Surely better had it been for him, if he were lying beneath the earth, enveloped in his shroud, still unconscious of bitter toils. Would that the dark wave, when the maiden Helle perished, had overwhelmed Phrixus too with the ram; but the dire portent even sent forth a human voice, that it might cause to Alcimede sorrows and countless pains hereafter."

Thus the women spake at the departure of the heroes. And now many thralls, men and women, were gathered together, and his mother, smitten with grief for Jason. And a bitter pang seized every woman's heart; and with them groaned the father in baleful old age, lying on his bed, closely wrapped round. But the hero straightway soothed their pain, encouraging them, and bade the thralls take up his weapons for war; and they in silence with downcast looks took them up. And even as the mother had thrown her arms about her son, so she clung, weeping without stint, as a maiden all alone weeps, falling fondly on the neck of her hoary nurse, a maid who has now no others to care for her, but she drags on a weary life under a stepmother, who maltreats her continually with ever fresh insults, and as she weeps, her heart within her is bound fast with misery, nor can she sob forth all the groans that struggle for utterance; so without stint wept Alcimede straining her son in her arms, and in her yearning grief spake as follows:

"Would that on that day when, wretched woman that I am, I heard King Pelias proclaim his evil behest, I had straightway given up my life and forgotten my cares, so that thou thyself, my son, with

τέκνον ἐμόν· τὸ γὰρ οἶον ἔην ἔτι λοιπὸν ἐέλδωρ
 ἐκ σέθεν, ἄλλα δὲ πάντα πάλαι θρεπτήρια πέσσω.
 νῦν γε μὲν ἢ τὸ πάροιθεν Ἀχαιιάδεσσιν ἀγητὴ
 δμῶϊς ὅπως κενεοῖσι λελείψομαι ἐν μεγάροισιν,
 σείο πόθῳ μινύθουσα δυσάμμορος, ᾧ ἔπι πολλὴν
 ἀγλαΐην καὶ κῦδος ἔχον πάρος, ᾧ ἔπι μούνη
 μίτρην πρῶτον ἔλυσα καὶ ὕστατον. ἔσοχα γάρ
 μοι

Εἰλείθυια θεὰ πολέος ἐμέγηρε τόκοιο.

ὧ μοι ἐμῆς ἄτης· τὸ μὲν οὐδ' ὅσον, οὐδ' ἐν ὀνείρῳ 290
 ὠισάμην, εἰ Φρίξος ἐμοὶ κακὸν ἔσσειτ' ἀλύξας.

Ὡς ἦγε στενάχουσα κινύρετο· ταὶ δὲ γυναῖκες
 ἀμφίπολοι γοάασκον ἐπισταδόν· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε
 μελιχίοις ἐπέεσσι παρηγορέων προσέειπεν·

Μῆ μοι λευγαλέας ἐνιβάλλεο, μήτερ, ἀνίας
 ὧδε λήην, ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ἐρητύσεις κακότητος
 δάκρυσιν, ἀλλ' ἔτι κεν καὶ ἐπ' ἄλγεσιν ἄλγος ἄρσιο.
 πῆματα γάρ τ' αἰδήλα θεοὶ θνητοῖσι νέμουσιν,
 τῶν μοῖραν κατὰ θυμὸν ἀνιάζουσά περ ἔμπης
 τλῆθι φέρειν· θάρσει δὲ συνημοσύνησιν Ἀθήνης, 300
 ἡδὲ θεοπροπίοισιν, ἐπεὶ μάλα δεξιὰ Φοῖβος
 ἔχρη, ἀτὰρ μετέπειτά γ' ἀριστήων ἐπαρωγῇ.
 ἀλλὰ σὺ μὲν νῦν αὖθι μετ' ἀμφιπόλοισιν ἔκηλος
 μίμνε δόμοις, μηδ' ὄρνις ἀεικελὴ πέλε νηί·
 κείσε δ' ὁμαρτήσουσιν ἔται δμῶές τε κίοντι.

Ἡ, καὶ ὁ μὲν προτέρωσε δόμων ἐξῶρτο νέεσθαι.
 οἶος δ' ἐκ νηοῖο θυώδεος εἶσιν Ἀπόλλων
 Δῆλον ἀν' ἡγαθέην, ἡὲ Κλάρων, ἡ ὅγε Πυθῶ,
 ἡ Λυκίην εὐρεΐαν, ἐπὶ Ξάνθοιο ῥοῇσιν,
 τοῖος ἀνὰ πληθύν δῆμον κίεν· ὦρτο δ' αὐτὴ 310
 κεκλομένων ἄμνυδις. τῷ δὲ ξύμβλητο γεραῖη

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

thine own hands, mightest have buried me ; for that was the only wish left me still to be fulfilled by thee, all the other rewards for thy nurture have I long enjoyed. Now I, once so admired among Achæan women, shall be left behind like a bondwoman in my empty halls, pining away, ill-fated one, for love of thee, thee on whose account I had aforetime so much splendour and renown, my only son for whom I loosed my virgin zone first and last. For to me beyond others the goddess Eileithyia grudged abundant offspring. Alas for my folly ! Not once, not even in my dreams did I forebode this, that the flight of Phrixus would bring me woe."

Thus with moaning she wept, and her handmaidens, standing by, lamented ; but Jason spake gently to her with comforting words :

"Do not, I pray thee, mother, store up bitter sorrows overmuch, for thou wilt not redeem me from evil by tears, but wilt still add grief to grief. For unseen are the woes that the gods mete out to mortals ; be strong to endure thy share of them though with grief in thy heart ; take courage from the promises of Athena, and from the answers of the gods (for very favourable oracles has Phoebus given), and then from the help of the chieftains. But do thou remain here, quiet among thy handmaids, and be not a bird of ill omen to the ship ; and thither my clansmen and thralls will follow me."

He spake, and started forth to leave the house. And as Apollo goes forth from some fragrant shrine to divine Delos or Claros or Pytho or to broad Lycia near the stream of Xanthus, in such beauty moved Jason through the throng of people ; and a cry arose as they shouted together. And there met him aged

Ἴφιάς Ἀρτέμιδος πολιοῦχου ἀρήτειρα,
καί μιν δεξιτερῆς χειρὸς κύσεν, οὐδέ τι φάσθαι
ἔμπης ἰεμένη δύνατο, προθέοντος ὁμίλου·
ἀλλ' ἢ μὲν λίπετ' αὖθι παρακλιδόν, οἶα γεραιῇ
ὀπλοτέρων, ὁ δὲ πολλὸν ἀποπλαγχθεὶς ἐλιάσθη.

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ ῥα πόλῃος ἐνδμήτους λίπ' ἀγνιῆς,
ἀκτὴν δ' ἴκανε Παγασηίδα, τῇ μιν ἐταῖροι
δειδέχατ', Ἀργῶν ἄμυδις παρὰ νηὶ μένοντες.
στῇ δ' ἄρ' ἐπὶ προμολῆς.¹ οἱ δ' ἀντίοι ἠγερέθοντο. 320
ἐς δ' ἐνόησαν Ἀκαστον ὁμῶς Ἀργον τε πόλῃος
νόσφι καταβλώσκοντας, ἐθάμβησαν δ' ἐσιδόντες
πασσυνδὴ Πελίαο παρέκ νόον ἰθύνοντας.²
δέρμα δ' ὁ μὲν ταύροιο ποδηνεκὲς ἀμφέχετ' ὄμους
Ἄργος Ἀρεστορίδης λάχνη μέλαν· αὐτὰρ ὁ καλὴν
δίπλακα, τήν οἱ ὅπασσε κασιγνήτη Πελόπεια.
ἀλλ' ἔμπης τῶ μὲν τε διεξερέεσθαι ἕκαστα
ἔσχετο· τοὺς δ' ἀγορήνδε συνεδριάσθαι ἄνωγεν.
αὐτοῦ δ' ἰλλομένοις ἐπὶ λαΐφεσιν, ἡδὲ καὶ ἰσθῶ
κεκλιμένῳ μάλα πάντες ἐπισχερῶ ἐδριόωντο. 330
τοῖσιν δ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἐυφρονέων μετέειπεν·

Ἄλλα μὲν ὅσσα τε νηὶ ἐφοπλίσσασθαι ἔοικεν—
πάντα γὰρ εὖ κατὰ κόσμον—ἐπαρτέα κεῖται
ἰοῦσιν.

τῷ οὐκ ἂν δηναιὸν ἐχοίμεθα τοῖο ἔκητι
ναυτιλίας, ὅτε μῦνον ἐπιπνεύσωσιν³ ἀῆται.
ἀλλὰ, φίλοι,—ξυνὸς γὰρ ἐς Ἑλλάδα νόστος
ὀπίσσω,
ξυναὶ δ' ἄμμι πέλονται ἐς Αἰήταο κέλευθοι—
τοῦνεκα νῦν τὸν ἄριστον ἀφειδήσαντες ἔλεσθε

¹ προμολῆς LG.

² ἰθύνοντας Brunck: ἰθύνοντας MSS.

³ ἐπιπνεύσωσιν one Parisian: ἐπιπνεύσουσιν all other MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

Iphias, priestess of Artemis guardian of the city, and kissed his right hand, but she had not strength to say a word, for all her eagerness, as the crowd rushed on, but she was left there by the wayside, as the old are left by the young, and he passed on and was gone afar.

Now when he had left the well-built streets of the city, he came to the beach of Pagasae, where his comrades greeted him as they stayed together near the ship Argo. And he stood at the entering in, and they were gathered to meet him. And they perceived Acastus and Argus coming from the city, and they marvelled when they saw them hasting with all speed, despite the will of Pelias. The one, Argus, son of Arestor, had cast round his shoulders the hide of a bull reaching to his feet, with the black hair upon it, the other, a fair mantle of double fold, which his sister Pelopeia had given him. Still Jason forebore from asking them about each point but bade all be seated for an assembly. And there, upon the folded sails and the mast as it lay on the ground, they all took their seats in order. And among them with goodwill spake Aeson's son :

"All the equipment that a ship needs—for all is in due order—lies ready for our departure. Therefore we will make no long delay in our sailing for these things' sake, when the breezes but blow fair. But, friends,—for common to all is our return to Hellas hereafter, and common to all is our path to the land of Aeetes—now therefore with ungrudging heart choose the bravest to be our leader, who shall

ὄρχαμον ἡμείων,¹ ᾧ κεν τὰ ἕκαστα μέλοιτο,
νείκεα συνθεσίας τε μετὰ ξείνοισι βαλέσθαι.’ 340

ᾧ φάτο· πάπτηναν δὲ νέοι θρασὺν Ἡρακλῆα
ἤμενον ἐν μέσσοισι· μὴ δέ ἐ πάντες αὐτῇ
σημαίνειν ἐπέτελλον· ὁ δ’ αὐτόθεν, ἔνθα περ ἦστο,
δεξιτερὴν ἀνὰ χεῖρα ταυύσσατο φώνησέν τε·

‘Μήτις ἐμοὶ τόδε κῦδος ὀπαζέτω. οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε
πείσομαι· ὥστε καὶ ἄλλον ἀναστήσεσθαι ἐρύξω.
αὐτός, ὅτις ξυνάγειρε, καὶ ἀρχεῖοι ὁμάδοιο.’

Ἦ ῥα μέγα φρονέων, ἐπὶ δ’ ἦνεον, ὥς ἐκέλευεν
Ἡρακλῆς· ἀνὰ δ’ αὐτὸς ἀρήιος ὄρνυτ’ Ἰήσων
γηθόσυνος, καὶ τοῖα λιλαιομένοις ἀγόρευεν· 350

‘Εἰ μὲν δὴ μοι κῦδος ἐπιτρωπᾶτε μέλεσθαι,
μηκέτ’ ἔπειθ’, ὥς καὶ πρίν, ἐρητύοιτο κέλευθα.
νῦν γε μὲν ἤδη Φοῖβον ἀρεσσάμενοι θυέεσσιν
δαῖτ’ ἐντυνώμεσθα παρασχεδόν. ὄφρα δ’ ἴωσιν
δμῶες ἐμοὶ σταθμῶν σημάντορες, οἷσι μέμηλεν
δεῦρο βόας ἀγέληθεν ἐν κρίναντας ἐλάσσαι,
τόφρα κε νῆ’ ἐρύσαιμεν ἔσω ἁλός, ὅπλα δὲ πάντα
ἐνθέμενοι πεπάλαχθε κατὰ κληῖδας ἐρετμά.
τείως δ’ αὖ καὶ βωμὸν ἐπάκτιον Ἐμβασίοιο
θείομεν Ἀπόλλωνος, ὃ μοι χρεῖων ὑπέδεκτο 360
σημανέειν δείξειν τε πόρους ἁλός, εἴ κε θυηλαῖς
οὐ ἔθεν ἐξάρχωμαι ἀεθλεύων βασιλῆϊ.’

Ἦ ῥα, καὶ εἰς ἔργον πρῶτος τράπεθ’· οἱ δ’
ἐπανεῖσαν
πειθόμενοι· ἀπὸ δ’ εἵματ’ ἐπήτριμα νηήσαντο
λείῳ ἐπὶ πλαταμῶνι, τὸν οὐκ ἐπέβαλλε θάλασσα
κύμασι, χειμερὶ δὲ πάλαι ἀποέκλυσεν ἄλμη.

¹ ἡμείων one Vatican, three Parisian: ὑμείων LG.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

be careful for everything, to take upon him our quarrels and covenants with strangers."

Thus he spake ; and the young heroes turned their eyes towards bold Heracles sitting in their midst, and with one shout they all enjoined upon him to be their leader ; but he, from the place where he sat, stretched forth his right hand and said :

" Let no one offer this honour to me. For I will not consent, and I will forbid any other to stand up. Let the hero who brought us together, himself be the leader of the host."

Thus he spake with high thoughts, and they assented, as Heracles bade ; and warlike Jason himself rose up, glad at heart, and thus addressed the eager throng :

" If ye entrust your glory to my care, no longer as before let our path be hindered. Now at last let us propitiate Phoebus with sacrifice and straightway prepare a feast. And until my thralls come, the overseers of my steading, whose care it is to choose out oxen from the herd and drive them hither, we will drag down the ship to the sea, and do ye place all the tackling within, and draw lots for the benches for rowing. Meantime let us build upon the beach an altar to Apollo Embasius¹ who by an oracle promised to point out and show me the paths of the sea, if by sacrifice to him I should begin my venture for King Pelias."

He spake, and was the first to turn to the work, and they stood up in obedience to him ; and they heaped their garments, one upon the other, on a smooth stone, which the sea did not strike with its waves, but the stormy surge had cleansed it long before.

¹ i.e. God of embarkation.

νῆα δ' ἐπικρατέως Ἄργου ὑποθημοσύνησιν
 ἔζωσαν πάμπρωτον ἐυστρεφεῖ ἔνδοθεν¹ ὅπλῳ
 τεινόμενοι ἐκάτερθεν, ἵν' εὖ ἀραροίατο γόμφους
 δούρατα καὶ ῥοθίοιο βίην ἔχοι ἀντιόωσαν. 370
 σκάπτον δ' αἶψα κατ' εὖρος ὅσον περιβάλλετο

χῶρον,²
 ἥδ' ἐκτὸς πρῶειραν ἔσω³ ἄλός ὅσσάτιόν περ
 ἐλκομένη χεῖρεςσιν ἐπιδραμέεσθαι ἔμελλεν.
 αἰεὶ δὲ προτέρῳ χθαμαλώτερον ἐξελάχαινον
 στείρης, ἐν δ' ὀλκῷ ξεστὰς στορέσαντο φάλαγγας·
 τὴν δὲ κατάντη κλῖναν ἐπὶ πρώτῃσι φάλαγξιν,
 ὥς κεν ὀλισθαίνουσα δι' αὐτῶν φορέοιτο.
 ὕψι δ' ἄρ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα μεταστρέψαντες ἐρετμὰ
 πῆχυιον προύχοντα περὶ σκαλμοῖσιν ἔδῃσαν.
 τῶν δ' ἐναμοιβαδὶς αὐτοὶ ἐνέσταθεν ἀμφοτέρωθεν, 380
 στέρνα θ' ὁμοῦ καὶ χεῖρας ἐπήλασαν. ἐν δ' ἄρα

Τῆφους
 βῆσαθ', ἵν' ὀτρύνειε νέους κατὰ καιρὸν ἐρύσσαι·
 κεκλόμενος δ' ἦνσε μάλ' ἀμέγα· τοὶ δὲ παρᾶσσον
 ᾧ κράτει βρῖσαντες ἰὴ στυφέλιξαν ἐρωῇ
 νειόθεν ἐξ ἔδρης, ἐπὶ δ' ἐρρώσαντο πόδεσσιν
 προπροβιαζόμενοι· ἡ δ' ἔσπετο Πηλιάς Ἀργῶ
 ῥίμφα μάλ'· οἱ δ' ἐκάτερθεν ἐπίαχον αἰσσουντες.
 αἰ δ' ἄρ' ὑπὸ τρόπιδι στιβαρῇ στενάχοντο
 φάλαγγες

τριβομεναι· περὶ δὲ σφιν αἰδυνὴ κήκιε λιγνὺς
 βριθοσύνη, κατόλισθε δ' ἔσω ἄλός· οἱ δὲ μιν αὖθι 390
 ἄψ ἀνασειράζοντες ἔχον προτέρωσε κιοῦσαν.

¹ ἔκτοθεν Sanctamandus.

² χῶρον G: χῶρος all other MSS.

³ πρῶειραν ἔσω Th. Bergk: πρῶραν ἔσω LG: πρῶραν εἴσω L².

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

First of all, by the command of Argus, they strongly girded the ship with a rope well twisted within,¹ stretching it tight on each side, in order that the planks might be well compacted by the bolts and might withstand the opposing force of the surge. And they quickly dug a trench as wide as the space the ship covered, and at the prow as far into the sea as it would run when drawn down by their hands. And they ever dug deeper in front of the stem, and in the furrow laid polished rollers; and inclined the ship down upon the first rollers, that so she might glide and be borne on by them. And above, on both sides, reversing the oars, they fastened them round the thole-pins, so as to project a cubit's space. And the heroes themselves stood on both sides at the oars in a row, and pushed forward with chest and hand at once. And then Tiphys leapt on board to urge the youths to push at the right moment; and calling on them he shouted loudly; and they at once, leaning with all their strength, with one push started the ship from her place, and strained with their feet, forcing her onward; and Pelian Argo followed swiftly; and they on each side shouted as they rushed on. And then the rollers groaned under the sturdy keel as they were chafed, and round them rose up a dark smoke owing to the weight, and she glided into the sea; but the heroes stood there and kept dragging her back as she sped

¹ Or, reading ἐκτοθεν, "they strongly girded the ship outside with a well-twisted rope." In either case there is probably no allusion to ὑποζώματα (ropes for undergirding) which were carried loose and only used in stormy weather.

σκαλμοῖς δ' ἀμφὶς ἐρετμὰ κατήρτυον· ἐν δέ οἱ ἴστον
λαίφεά τ' εὐποίητα καὶ ἄρμαλιν ἐβάλοντο.

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τὰ ἕκαστα περιφραδέως ἀλέγυναν,
κληῖδας μὲν πρῶτα πάλῳ διεμοιρήσαντο,
ἄνδρ' ἐντυναμένῳ δοιὼ μίαν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα μέσσην
ἤρεον Ἡρακλῇ καὶ ἡρώων ἄτερ ἄλλων
Ἀγκαίῳ, Τεγέης ὅς ῥα πτολίεθρον ἔναιεν.
τοῖς μέσσην οἴοισιν ἀπὸ κληῖδα λίποντο
αὕτως, οὔτι πάλῳ· ἐπὶ δ' ἔτρεπον αἰνήσαντες
Τίφυν εὐστείρης οἰήια νηὸς ἔρυσθαι.

400

Ἐνθεν δ' αὖ λαίγγας ἀλὸς σχεδὸν ὀχλίζοντες
νῆεον αὐτόθι βωμὸν ἐπάκτιον Ἀπόλλωνος,
Ἀκτίου Ἐμβασίοιό τ' ἐπώνυμον· ὦκα δὲ τοίγε
φिटροὺς ἀζαλέης στόρεσαν καθύπερθεν ἐλαίης.
τείως δ' αὐτ' ἀγέληθεν ἐπιπροέηκαν ἄγοντες
βουκόλοι Αἰσονίδαο δύῳ βόε. τοὺς δ' ἐρύσαντο
κουρότεροι ἐτάρων βωμοῦ σχεδόν, οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα
χέρνιβά τ' οὐλοχύτας τε παρέσχεθον. αὐτὰρ
Ἰήσων

εὐχετο κεκλόμενος πατρώιον Ἀπόλλωνα·

410

Ἐκλῦθι ἄναξ, Παγασάς τε πόλιν τ' Αἰσωνίδα
ναίων,

ἡμετέροιο τοκῆος ἐπώνυμον, ὅς μοι ὑπέστης
Πυθοῖ χρειομένῳ ἄνυσιν καὶ πείραθ' ὁδοῖο
σημανέειν, αὐτὸς γὰρ ἐπαίτιος ἔπλεν ἀέθλων·
αὐτὸς νῦν ἄγε νῆα σὺν ἀρτεμέεσσιν ἐταίροις
κεῖσέ τε καὶ παλίνορσον ἐς Ἑλλάδα. σοὶ δ' ἂν
ὀπίσσω

τόσσων, ὅσσοι κεν νοστήσομεν, ἀγλαὰ ταύρων
ἱρὰ πάλιν βωμῷ ἐπιθήσομεν· ἄλλα δὲ Πυθοῖ,
ἄλλα δ' ἐς Ὀρτυγίην ἀπερείσια δῶρα κομίσσω.
νῦν δ' ἴθι, καὶ τήνδ' ἡμιν, Ἐκηβόλε, δέξο θυγλήν,

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onward. And round the thole-pins they fitted the oars, and in the ship they placed the mast and the well-made sails and the stores.

Now when they had carefully paid heed to everything, first they distributed the benches by lot, two men occupying one seat; but the middle bench they chose for Heracles and Ancaeus ~~apart from the other~~ heroes, Ancaeus who dwelt in Tegea. For them ~~alone~~ they left the middle bench just as it was and not by lot; and with one consent they entrusted Tiphys ✓ with guarding the helm of the well-stemmed ship.

Next, piling up shingle near the sea, they raised there an altar on the shore to Apollo, under the name of Actius¹ and Embasius, and quickly spread above it logs of dried olive-wood. Meantime the herdsmen of Aeson's son had driven before them from the herd two steers. These the younger comrades dragged near the altars, and the others brought lustral water and barley meal, and Jason prayed, calling on Apollo the god of his fathers:

“Hear, O King, that dwellest in Pagasae and the city Aesonis, the city called by my father's name, thou who didst promise me, when I sought thy oracle at Pytho, to show the fulfilment and goal of my journey, for thou thyself hast been the cause of my venture; now do thou thyself guide the ship with my comrades safe and sound, thither and back again to Hellas. Then in thy honour hereafter we will lay again on thy altar the bright offerings of bulls—all of us who return; and other gifts in countless numbers I will bring to Pytho and Ortygia. And now, come, Far-darter, accept this sacrifice at our hands, which first of all we have offered

¹ *i.e.* God of the shore.

ἦν τοι τῇσδ' ἐπίβαθρα χάριν προτεθείμεθα νηὸς
πρωτίστην· λύσαιμι δ', ἄναξ, ἐπ' ἀπήμονι μοίρῃ
πείσματα σὴν διὰ μῆτιν· ἐπιπνεύσειε δ' ἀήτης
μείλιχος, ὃ κ' ἐπὶ πόντον ἐλευσόμεθ' εὐδιόωντες·

Ἦ, καὶ ἅμ' εὐχολῇ προχύτας βάλε. τὼ δ' ἐπὶ
βουσὶν

ζωσάσθην, Ἀγκαῖος ὑπέρβιος, Ἡρακλῆς τε.
ἦτοι ὁ μὲν ῥοπάλῳ μέσσον κάρη ἄμφι μέτωπα
πλήξεν, ὁ δ' ἀθρόος αὐθι πεσὼν ἐνερείσατο γαίῃ·
Ἀγκαῖος δ' ἑτέριοιο κατὰ πλατὺν αὐχένα κόψας
χαλκείῳ πελέκει κρατεροὺς διέκερσε τένοντας· 430
ἦριπε δ' ἀμφοτέροισι περιρρηδῆς κεράεσσιν.
τοὺς δ' ἔταροι σφάξαν τε θοῶς, δεῖράν τε βοείας,
κόπτιον, δαίτρευνόν τε, καὶ ἱερὰ μῆρ' ἐτάμοντο,
καδ δ' ἄμυδις τάγε πάντα καλύψαντες πύκα δημῷ
καῖον ἐπὶ σχίζῃσιν· ὁ δ' ἀκρήτους χέε λοιβάς
Αἰσονίδης, γήθει δὲ σέλας θηεύμενος Ἰδμῶν
πάντοσε λαμπόμενον θυέων ἄπο τοιοῦ τε λιγνὺν
πορφυρέαις ἐλίκεσσιν ἐναίσιμον αἰσσουσαν·
αἶψα δ' ἀπηλεγέως νόον ἔκφατο Λητοῖδαο·

ἙΤμῖν μὲν δὴ μοῖρα θεῶν χρεῖώ τε περῆσαι 440
ἐνθάδε κῶας ἄγοντας· ἀπειρέσιοι δ' ἐνὶ μέσσῳ
κεῖσέ τε δευρό τ' ἔασιν ἀνερχομένοισιν ἄεθλοι.
αὐτὰρ ἐμοὶ θανέειν στυγερῇ ὑπὸ δαίμονος αἶσῃ
τηλόθι που πέπρωται ἐπ' Ἀσίδος ἡπείριοιο.
ὦδε κακοῖς δεδαῶς ἔτι καὶ πάρος οἰωνοῖσιν
πότμον ἐμὸν πάτρης ἐξήμιον, ὄφρ' ἐπιβαίην
νηός, εὐκλείῃ δὲ δόμοις ἐπιβάντι λίπηται·

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· κοῦροι δὲ θεοπροπίης αἰόντες
νόστῳ μὲν γήθησαν, ἄχος δ' ἔλεν Ἰδμονος αἴσῃ.

The
and flay
and carved the
bones, and covering
fat burnt them upon cloven wood. And Aeson's son
poured out pure libations, and Idmon rejoiced be-
holding the flame as it gleamed on every side from
the sacrifice, and the smoke of it mounting up with
good omen in dark spiral columns; and quickly he
spoke outright the will of Leto's son: Idmon said

"For you it is the will of heaven and destiny that
ye shall return here with the fleece; but meanwhile
both going and returning, countless trials await you.
But it is my lot, by the hateful decree of a god, to die
somewhere afar off on the mainland of Asia. Thus,
though I learnt my fate from evil omens even
before now, I have left my fatherland to embark on
the ship, that so after my embarking fair fame may
be left me in my house."

Thus he spake; and the youths hearing the divine
utterance rejoiced at their return, but grief seized

...ιδας·
...σὶ μῆτιν ἐλίσ-

αὔδα ἐνὶ μέσσοισι τεὸν νόον. ἦέ σε δαμνᾷ
τάρβος ἐπιπλόμενον, τό τ' ἀνάλκιδας ἄνδρας
ἀτύζει;

ἴστω νῦν δόρυ θοῦρον, ὅτῳ περιώσιον ἄλλων
κῦδος ἐνὶ πτολέμοισιν αἰίρομαι, οὐδέ μ' ὀφέλλει
Ζεὺς τόσον, ὅσσιόν περ ἐμὸν δόρυ, μὴ νύ τι πῆμα
λοίγιον ἔσσεσθαι, μηδ' ἀκράαντον ἄεθλον
ἴδεω ἐσπομένοιο, καὶ εἰ θεὸς ἀντιόωτο.

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τοῖόν μ' Ἀρήνηθεν ἁοσσητῆρα κομίζεις·

Ἦ, καὶ ἐπισχόμενος πλείον δέπας ἀμφοτέρησιν
πῖνε χαλίκρητον λαρὸν μέθυ· δεύετο δ' οἴνῳ
χείλεα, κυάνεαί τε γενειάδες· οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν
πάντες ὁμῶς, Ἰδμων δὲ καὶ ἀμφαδίην ἀγόρευσεν·

Ἐδαιμόνιε, φρονέεις ὀλοφώια καὶ πάρος αὐτῷ.
ἦέ τοι εἰς ἄτην ζωρὸν μέθυ θαρσαλέον κῆρ
οἰδάνει ἐν στήθεσσι, θεοὺς δ' ἀνέηκεν ἀτίζειν·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

them for the fate of Idmon. Now at the hour when the sun passes his noon-tide halt and the ploughlands are just being shadowed by the rocks, as the sun slopes towards the evening dusk, at that hour all the heroes spread leaves thickly upon the sand and lay down in rows in front of the hoary surf-line; and near them were spread vast stores of viands and sweet wine, which the cupbearers had drawn off in pitchers; afterwards they told tales one to another in turn, such as youths often tell when at the feast and the bowl they take delightful pastime, and insatiable insolence is far away. But here the son of Aeson, all helpless, was brooding over each event in his mind, like one oppressed with thought. And Idas noted him and assailed him with loud voice :

“Son of Aeson, what is this plan thou art turning over in mind. Speak out thy thought in the midst. Does fear come on and master thee, fear, that confounds cowards? Be witness now my impetuous spear, wherewith in wars I win renown beyond all others (nor does Zeus aid me so much as my own spear), that no woe will be fatal, no venture will be unachieved, while Idas follows, even though a god should oppose thee. Such a helpmeet am I that thou bringest from Arene.”

He spake, and holding a brimming goblet in both hands drank off the unmixed sweet wine; and his lips and dark cheeks were drenched with it; and all the heroes clamoured together and Idmon spoke out openly :

“Vain wretch, thou art devising destruction for thyself before the time. Does the pure wine cause thy bold heart to swell in thy breast to thy ruin, and has it set thee on to dishonour the gods? Other

ἄλλοι μῦθοι ἔασι παρήγοροι, οἷσί περ ἀνὴρ
 θαρσύνοι ἔταρον· σὺ δ' ἀτάσθαλα πάμπαν ἔειπας. 480
 τοῖα φάτις καὶ τοὺς πρὶν ἐπιφλύειν μακάρεσσιν
 νῆας Ἀλωιάδας, οἷς οὐδ' ὅσον ἰσοφαρίζεις
 ἡγορέην· ἔμπης δὲ θοοῖς ἐδάμησαν ὀιστοῖς
 ἄμφω Λητοῖδαι, καὶ ἰφθιμοὶ περ ἑόντες·

ὣς ἔφατ'· ἐκ δ' ἐγέλασεν ἄδην Ἀφαρήϊος
 Ἴδας,

καὶ μιν ἐπιλλίζων ἡμείβετο κερτομίοισιν·

ἄγρει νυν τόδε σῆσι θεοπροπίησιν ἐνίσπες,
 εἰ καὶ ἐμοὶ τοιόνδε θεοὶ τελέουσιν ὄλεθρον,
 οἷον Ἀλωιάδῃσι πατὴρ τεὸς ἐγγυάλιξεν.
 φράζεο δ' ὅπως χεῖρας ἐμὰς σόος ἐξαλέοιο, 490
 χρεῖῳ θεσπίζων μεταμῶνιον εἴ κεν ἄλγῃς·

Χώετ' ἐνιπτάζων· προτέρω δέ κε νεῖκος ἐτύχθη,
 εἰ μὴ δηριύωντας ὁμοκλήσαντες ἑταῖροι
 αὐτός τ' Αἰσονίδης κατερήτνεν· ἂν δὲ καὶ Ὀρφεὺς
 λαιῇ ἀνασχόμενος κίθαριν πείραζεν ᾠοιδῆς.

ἦεν δ' ὥς γαῖα καὶ οὐρανὸς ἠδὲ θάλασσα,
 τὸ πρὶν ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισι μιῇ συναρηρότα μορφῇ,
 νεῖκος ἐξ ὀλοοῖο διέκριθεν ἀμφὶς ἕκαστα·
 ἦδ' ὥς ἔμπεδον αἰὲν ἐν αἰθέρι τέκμαρ ἔχουσιν
 ἄστρα σεληναίη τε καὶ ἡελίοιο κέλευθοι·
 οὐρεὶ θ' ὥς ἀνέτειλε, καὶ ὥς ποταμοὶ κελάδοντες
 αὐτῇσιν νύμφῃσι καὶ ἐρπετὰ πάντ' ἐγένοντο.
 ἦεν δ' ὥς πρῶτον Ὀφίων Εὐρυνόμη τε
 Ὀκεανὶς νιφόεντος ἔχον κράτος Οὐλύμποιο·
 ὥς τε βίη καὶ χερσὶν ὁ μὲν Κρόνῳ εἵκαθε τιμῆς,
 ἦ δὲ Ῥέη, ἔπεσον δ' ἐνὶ κύμασιν Ὀκεανοῖο·
 οἱ δὲ τέως μακάρεσσι θεοῖς Τιτῇσιν ἄρασσον,

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words of comfort there are with which a man might encourage his comrade; but thou hast spoken with utter recklessness. Such taunts, the tale goes, did the sons of Aloeus once blurt out against the blessed gods, and thou dost no wise equal them in valour; nevertheless they were both slain by the swift arrows of Leto's son, mighty though they were."

Thus he spake, and Aphareian Idas laughed out, loud and long, and eyeing him askance replied with biting words:

"Come now, tell me this by thy prophetic art, whether for me too the gods will bring to pass such doom as thy father promised for the sons of Aloeus. And bethink thee how thou wilt escape from my hands alive, if thou art caught making a prophecy vain as the idle wind."

Thus in wrath Idas reviled him, and the strife would have gone further had not their comrades and Aeson's son himself with indignant cry restrained the contending chiefs; and Orpheus lifted his lyre in his left hand and made essay to sing.

He sang how the earth, the heaven and the sea, once mingled together in one form, after deadly strife were separated each from other; and how the stars and the moon and the paths of the sun ever keep their fixed place in the sky; and how the mountains rose, and how the resounding rivers with their nymphs came into being and all creeping things. And he sang how first of all Ophion and Eurynome, daughter of Ocean, held the sway of snowy Olympus, and how through strength of arm one yielded his prerogative to Cronos and the other to Rhea, and how they fell into the waves of Ocean; but the other two meanwhile ruled over the blessed Titan-gods,

ὄφρα Ζεὺς ἔτι κοῦρος, ἔτι φρεσὶ νήπια εἰδώς,
Δικταῖον ναίεσκεν ὑπὸ σπέος· οἳ δέ μιν οὔπω
γηγενέες Κύκλωπες ἐκαρτύναντο κεραυνῶ, 510
βροντῇ τε στεροπῇ τε· τὰ γὰρ Διὶ κῦδος ὀπάζει.

Ἦ, καὶ ὁ μὲν φόρμιγγα σὺν ἀμβροσίῃ σχέθεν
αὐδῇ.

τοὶ δ' ἄμοτον λήξαντος ἔτι προύχοντο κάρηνα
πάντες ὁμῶς ὀρθοῖσιν ἐπ' οὔασιν ἡρεμέοντες
κηληθμῶ· τοῖόν σφιν ἐνέλλιπε θέλκτρον ἀοιδῆς.
οὐδ' ἐπὶ δὴν μετέπειτα κερασσάμενοι Διὶ¹ λοιβάς,
ἦ θέμις, εὐαγέως² ἐπὶ τε γλώσσησι χέοντο
αἰθομέναις, ὕπνου δὲ διὰ κνέφας ἐμνῶντο.

Αὐτὰρ ὅτ' αἰγλήεσσα φαεινοῖς ὄμμασιν Ἡὼς
Πηλίου αἰπεινὰς ἴδεν ἄκριας, ἐκ δ' ἀνέμοιο 520
εὐδίοι ἐκλύζοντο τινασσομένης ἀλὸς ἄκραι,
δὴ τότε ἀνέγρετο Τῖφυσ· ἄφαρ δ' ὀρόθυнен ἐταίρους
βαινέμεναί τ' ἐπὶ νῆα καὶ ἀρτύνασθαι ἐρετμά.
σμερδαλέον δὲ λιμὴν Παγασήιος ἠδὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
Πηλιδὸς ἴαχεν Ἀργὼ ἐπισπέρχουσα νέεσθαι.
ἐν γάρ οἱ δόρυ θεῖον ἐλήλατο, τό ρ' ἀνὰ μέσσην
στεῖραν Ἀθηναίῃ Δωδωνίδος ἥρμωσε φηγοῦ.
οἳ δ' ἀνὰ σέλματα βάντες ἐπισχερὼ ἀλλήλοισιν,
ὥς ἐδάσαντο πάροιθεν ἐρεσσέμεν ὧ ἐνὶ χώρῳ, 530
εὐκόσμως σφετέροισι παρ' ἔντεσιν ἐδριόωντο.
μέσσω δ' Ἀγκαῖος μέγα τε σθένος Ἡρακλῆος
ἵζανον· ἄγχι δέ οἱ ρόπαλον θέτο, καὶ οἱ ἔνερθεν
ποσσὶν ὑπεκλύσθη νηὸς τρόπις. εἴλκετο δ' ἤδη
πείσματα, καὶ μέθυ λείβον ὑπερθ' ἀλός. αὐτὰρ
Ἰήσων

δακρυόεις γαίης ἀπὸ πατρίδος ὄμματ' ἔνεικεν.

¹ Διὶ one Vatican : δὴ all other MSS.

² εὐαγέως Merkel : ἐστὶ τέως MSS.

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while Zeus, still a child and with the thoughts of a child, dwelt in the Dictæan cave; and the earth-born Cyclopes had not yet armed him with the bolt, with thunder and lightning; for these things give renown to Zeus.

He ended, and stayed his lyre and divine voice. But though he had ceased they still bent forward with eagerness all hushed to quiet, with ears intent on the enchanting strain; such a charm of song had he left behind in their hearts. Not long after they mixed libations in honour of Zeus, with pious rites as is customary, and poured them upon the burning tongues, and bethought them of sleep in the darkness.

Now when gleaming dawn with bright eyes beheld the lofty peaks of Pelion, and the calm headlands were being drenched as the sea was ruffled by the winds, then Tiphys awoke from sleep; and at once he roused his comrades to go on board and make ready the oars. And a strange cry did the harbour of Pagasæ utter, yea and Pelian Argo herself, urging them to set forth. For in her a beam divine had been laid which Athena had brought from an oak of Dodona and fitted in the middle of the stem. And the heroes went to the benches one after the other, as they had previously assigned for each to row in his place, and took their seats in due order near their fighting gear. In the middle sat Ancaeus and mighty Heracles, and near him he laid his club, and beneath his tread the ship's keel sank deep. And now the hawsers were being slipped and they poured wine on the sea. But Jason with tears held his eyes away

οἱ δ', ὥστ' ἡίθεοι Φοίβῳ χορὸν ἢ ἐνὶ Πυθοί
 ἢ που ἐν Ὀρτυγίῃ, ἢ ἐφ' ὕδασιν Ἰσμηνοῖο
 στησάμενοι, φόρμιγγος ὑπαὶ περὶ βωμὸν ὁμαρτῇ
 ἐμμελέως κραιπνοῖσι πέδον ῥήσσωσι πόδεσσιν·
 ὥς οἱ ὑπ' Ὀρφῆος κιθάρῃ πέπληγον ἑρετμοῖς 549
 πόντου λάβρον ὕδωρ, ἐπὶ δὲ ῥόθια κλύζοντο·
 ἀφρῶ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κελαινὴ κήκειν ἄλμη
 δεινὸν μορμύρουσα ἐρισθενέων μένει ἀνδρῶν.
 στράπτε δ' ὑπ' ἡελίῳ φλογὶ εἵκελα νηὸς ἰούσης
 τεύχεα· μακραὶ δ' αἰὲν ἐλευκαίνοντο κέλευθοι,
 ἀτραπὸς ὥς χλοεροῖο διειδομένη πεδίοιο.
 πάντες δ' οὐρανόθεν λεῦσσον θεοὶ ἡματι κείνῳ
 νῆα καὶ ἡμιθέων ἀνδρῶν μένος, οἱ τότ' ἄριστοι
 πόντον ἐπιπλώεσκον· ἐπ' ἀκροτάτῃσι δὲ νύμφαι
 Πηλιάδες κορυφῇσιν ἐθάμβεον εἰσορόωσαι 550
 ἔργον Ἀθηναίης Ἰτωνίδος¹ ἥδὲ καὶ αὐτοὺς
 ἥρωας χεῖρεσσιν ἐπικραδάοντας ἑρετμά.
 αὐτὰρ ὃγ' ἐξ ὑπάτου ὄρεος κίεν ἄγχι θαλάσσης
 Χείρων Φιλλυρίδης, πολιῇ δ' ἐπὶ κύματος ἀγῇ
 τέγγε πόδας, καὶ πολλὰ βαρεῖη χειρὶ κελεύων
 νόστον ἐπευφήμησεν ἀκηδέα νισσομένοισιν.
 σὺν καὶ οἱ παράκοιτις ἐπωλένιον φορέουσα
 Πηλεΐδην Ἀχιλλῆα, φίλῳ δειδίσκετο πατρί.

Οἱ δ' ὅτε δὴ λιμένος περιηγέα κάλλιπον ἀκτὴν
 φραδμοσύνη μῆτι τε δαΐφρονος Ἀγνιάδαο 560
 Τίφυος, ὅς ῥ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν εὐξοα τεχνηέντως
 πηδάλι' ἀμφιέπεσκ', ὅφρ' ἐμπεδον ἐξιθύνοι,
 δὴ ῥα τότε μέγαν ἰστὸν ἐνεστήσαντο μεσόδμη,
 δῆσαν δὲ προτόνοισι, τανυσσάμενοι ἐκάτερθει,

¹ Ἰτωνίδος schol., L by correction: Τριτωνίδος G, five Parisian.

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from his fatherland. And just as youths set up a dance in honour of Phoebus either in Pytho or haply in Ortygia, or by the waters of Ismenus, and to the sound of the lyre round his altar all together in time beat the earth with swiftly-moving feet; so they to the sound of Orpheus' lyre smote with their oars the rushing sea-water, and the surge broke over the blades; and on this side and on that the dark brine seethed with foam, boiling terribly through the might of the sturdy heroes. And their arms shone in the sun like flame as the ship sped on; and ever their wake gleamed white far behind, like a path seen over a green plain. On that day all the gods looked down from heaven upon the ship and the might of the heroes, half-divine, the bravest of men then sailing the sea; and on the topmost heights the nymphs of Pelion wondered as they beheld the work of Itonian Athena, and the heroes themselves wielding the oars. And there came down from the mountain-top to the sea Chiron, son of Philyra, and where the white surf broke he dipped his feet, and, often waving with his broad hand, cried out to them at their departure, "Good speed and a sorrowless home-return!" And with him his wife, bearing Peleus' son Achilles on her arm, showed the child to his dear father.

Now when they had left the curving shore of the harbour through the cunning and counsel of prudent Tiphys son of Hagnias, who skilfully handled the well-polished helm that he might guide them steadfastly, then at length they set up the tall mast in the mast-box, and secured it with forestays, drawing them

καὶ δ' αὐτοῦ λίνα χεῦαν, ἐπ' ἡλακάνην ἐρύσαντες.
 ἐν δὲ λιγύς πέσεν οὔρος· ἐπ' ἰκριόφιν δὲ κάλως
 ξεστῇσιν περόνησι διακριδὸν ἀμφιβαλόντες
 Τισαίην εὐκηλοὶ ὑπὲρ δολιχὴν θεὸν ἄκρην.
 τοῖσι δὲ φορμίζων εὐθήμονι μέλπεν ἀοιδῇ
 Οἰάγροιο πάις νηοσσόον εὐπατέρειαν

570

Ἄρτεμιν, ἣ κείνας σκοπιάς ἀλὸς ἀμφιέπεσκεν
 ῥυομένη καὶ γαῖαν Ἰωλκίδα· τοὶ δὲ βαθείης
 ἰχθύες αἰσσουντες ὑπερθ' ἀλός, ἄμμιγα παύροις
 ἄπλετοι, ὕγρα κέλευθα διασκαίροντες ἔποντο.
 ὥς δ' ὁπότ' ἀγραύλοιο κατ' ἴχνια σημαντῆρος
 μυρία μῆλ' ἐφέπονται ἄδην κεκορημένα ποίης
 εἰς αὖλιν, ὃ δέ τ' εἴσι πάρος σύριγγι λιγείῃ
 καλὰ μελιζόμενος νόμιον μέλος· ὥς ἄρα τοίγε
 ὠμάρτευν· τὴν δ' αἰὲν ἐπασσύτερος φέρειν οὔρος.

Αὐτίκα δ' ἡερίη πολυλήϊος αἶα Πελασγῶν
 δύετο, Πηλιάδας δὲ παρεξήμβειβον ἐρίπνας
 αἰὲν ἐπιπροθέοντες· ἔδυνε δὲ Σηπιάς ἄκρη,
 φαίνετο δ' εἰναλὴ Σκίαθος, φαίνοντο δ' ἄπωθεν
 Πειρεσιαὶ Μάγνησά θ' ὑπεύδιος ἡπείροιο
 ἀκτὴ καὶ τύμβος Δολοπήϊος· ἐνθ' ἄρα τοίγε
 ἐσπέριοι ἀνέμοιο παλιμπνοίησιν ἔκελσαν,
 καὶ μιν κυδαίνοντες ὑπὸ κνέφας ἔντομα μῆλων
 κεῖαν, ὀρινομένης ἀλὸς οἴδματι· διπλόα δ' ἀκταῖς
 ἤματ' ἐλινύεσκον· ἀτὰρ τριτάτῳ προέηκαν
 νῆα, τανυσσάμενοι περιώσιον ὑψόθι λαῖφος.
 τὴν δ' ἀκτὴν Ἀφέτας Ἀργοῦς ἔτι κικλήσκουσιν.

580

590

Ἐνθεν δὲ προτέρωσε παρεξέθεον Μελίβοιαν,

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taut on each side, and from it they let down the sail when they had hauled it to the top-mast. And a breeze came down piping shrilly; and upon the deck they fastened the ropes separately round the well-polished pins, and ran quietly past the long Tisaeon headland. And for them the son of Oeagrus touched his lyre and sang in rhythmical song of Artemis, saviour of ships, child of a glorious sire, who hath in her keeping those peaks by the sea, and the land of Iolcos; and the fishes came darting through the deep sea, great mixed with small, and followed gambolling along the watery paths. And as when in the track of the shepherd, their master, countless sheep follow to the fold that have fed to the full of grass, and he goes before gaily piping a shepherd's strain on his shrill reed; so these fishes followed; and a chasing breeze ever bore the ship onward.

And straightway the misty land of the Pelasgians, rich in cornfields, sank out of sight, and ever speeding onward they passed the rugged sides of Pelion; and the Sepian headland sank away, and Sciathus appeared in the sea, and far off appeared Piresiae and the calm shore of Magnesia on the mainland and the tomb of Dolops; here then in the evening, as the wind blew against them, they put to land, and paying honour to him at nightfall burnt sheep as victims, while the sea was tossed by the swell: and for two days they lingered on the shore, but on the third day they put forth the ship, spreading on high the broad sail. And even now men call that beach Aphetae¹ of Argo.

Thence going forward they ran past Meliboea,

¹ i.e. The Starting.

ἀκτὴν τ' αἰγιαλὸν τε δυσήνεμον ἐκπερόωντες.¹
 ἠῶθεν δ' Ὀμόλην αὐτοσχεδὸν εἰσορόωντες
 πόντῳ κεκλιμένην παρεμέτρεον· οὐδ' ἔτι δηρὸν
 μέλλον ὑπὲκ ποταμοῖο βαλεῖν Ἀμύροιο ῥέεθρα.
 κεῖθεν δ' Εὐρυμένας τε πολυκλύστους τε φάραγγας
 Ὀσσης Οὐλύμποιό τ' ἐσέδρακον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
 κλίτεια Παλλήναια, Καναστραῖν ὑπὲρ ἄκρην,
 ἦνυσαν ἐννύχιοι πνοιῇ ἀνέμοιο θέοντες.
 ἦρι δὲ νισσομένοισιν Ἄθω ἀνέτελλε κολώνη
 Θρηκίῃ, ἣ τόσσον ἀπόπροθι Λῆμνον ἐοῦσαν,
 ὅσσον ἐς ἐνδιὸν κεν εὖστολος ὄλκας ἀνύσσαι,
 ἀκροτάτῃ κορυφῇ σκιάει, καὶ ἐσάχρι Μυρίνης.
 τοῖσιν δ' αὐτῆμαρ μὲν ἄεν καὶ ἐπὶ κνέφας οὔρος
 πάγχυ μάλ' ἀκραῆς, τετάνυστο δὲ λαίφεα νηός.
 αὐτὰρ ἄμ' ἡελίοιο βολαῖς ἀνέμοιο λιπόντος
 εἰρεσίῃ κραναὴν Σιντηίδα Λῆμνον ἴκοντο.

600

Ἐνθ' ἄμυδις πᾶς δῆμος ὑπερβασίησι γυναικῶν
 νηλειῶς δέδμητο παροιχομένῳ λυκάβαντι.
 δὴ γὰρ κουριδίας μὲν ἀπηνύναντο γυναῖκας
 ἀνέρες ἐχθήραντες, ἔχον δ' ἐπὶ ληιάδεσσιν
 τρηχὺν ἔρον, ἅς αὐτοὶ ἀγίνεον ἀντιπέρηθεν
 Θρηκίην δηοῦντες· ἐπεὶ χόλος αἰνὸς ὄπαζεν
 Κύπριδος, οὔνεκά μιν γεράων ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἄτισσαν.
 ὦ μέλαι', ζήλοιο τ' ἐπισμυγερῶς ἀκόρητοι.
 οὐκ οἶον σὺν τῇσιν εὐὸς ἔρραισαν ἀκοίτας
 ἀμφ' εὐνῇ, πᾶν δ' ἄρσεν ὁμοῦ γένος, ὥς κεν ὀπίσσω
 μήτινα λευγαλέοιο φόνου τίσειαν ἀμοιβῇ.
 οἷη δ' ἐκ πασέων γεραροῦ περιφείσατο πατρός
 Ὑψιπύλεια Θόαντος, ὃ δὴ κατὰ δῆμον ἄιασσεν.

610

620

¹ ἐκπερόωντες Meineke : εἰσορόωντες MSS.

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escaping a stormy beach and surf-line. And in the morning they saw Homole close at hand leaning on the sea, and skirted it, and not long after they were about to pass by the outfall of the river Amyrus. From there they beheld Eurymenae and the sea-washed ravines of Ossa and Olympus; next they reached the slopes of Pallene, beyond the headland of Canastra, running all night with the wind. And at dawn before them as they journeyed rose Athos, the Thracian mountain, which with its topmost peak overshadows Lemnos, even as far as Myrine, though it lies as far off as the space that a well-trimmed merchantship would traverse up to mid-day. For them on that day, till darkness fell, the breeze blew exceedingly fresh, and the sails of the ship strained to it. But with the setting of the sun the wind left them, and it was by the oars that they reached Lemnos, the Sintian isle.

^v
^{at}
^{gr}
^{oth}
^{migl}
^{their} Here the whole of the men of the people together had been ruthlessly slain through the transgressions of the women in the year gone by. For the men had rejected their lawful wives, loathing them, and had conceived a fierce passion for captive maids whom they themselves brought across the sea from their forays in Thrace; for the terrible wrath of Cypris came upon them, because for a long time they had grudged her the honours due. O hapless women, and insatiate in jealousy to their own ruin! Not their husbands alone with the captives did they slay on account of the marriage-bed, but all the males at the same time, that they might thereafter pay no retribution for the grim murder. And of all the women, Hypsipyle alone spared her aged father

λάρνακι δ' ἐν κοίλῃ μιν ὕπερθ' ἁλὸς ἦκε φέρεσθαι,
αἶ κε φύγῃ. καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐς Οἰνοίην ἐρύσαντο
πρόσθεν, ἀτὰρ Σίκινόν γε μεθύστερον αὐδηθεῖσαν
νῆσον, ἐπακτῆρες, Σικίνου ἄπο, τὸν ῥα Θόαντι
νηιάς Οἰνοίῃ νύμφῃ τέκεν εὐνηθεῖσα.

τῇσι δὲ βουκόλιαί τε βοῶν χάλκειά τε δύνειν
τεύχεα, πυροφόρους τε διατμήξασθαι ἀρούρας
ῥήϊτερον πάσῃσιν Ἀθηναίης πέλεν ἔργων,
οἷς αἰεὶ τὸ πάροιθεν ὀμίλεον. ἀλλὰ γὰρ ἔμπης 630
ἦ θαμὰ δὴ πάπταινον ἐπὶ πλατὺν ὄμμασι πόντον
δείματι λευγαλέῳ, ὅποτε Θρήικες ἴασιν.
τῷ καὶ ὅτ' ἐγγύθι νήσου ἐρεσσομένην ἴδον Ἀργώ,
αὐτίκα πασσυδίῃ πυλέων ἔκτοσθε Μυρίνης
δήια τεύχεα δῦσαι ἐς αἰγιαλὸν προχέοντο,
Θυιάσιν ὠμοβόροις ἵκελαι· φὰν γάρ που ἰκάνειν
Θρήικας· ἡ δ' ἅμα τῇσι Θοαντιάς Ὑψιπύλεια
δύν' ἐνὶ τεύχεσι πατρός. ἀμηχανίῃ δ' ἐχέοντο
ἄφθογγοι· τοῖόν σφιν ἐπὶ δέος ἤωρεῖτο.

Τείως δ' αὐτ' ἐκ νηὸς ἀριστῆες προέηκαν 640
Αἰθαλίδην κήρυκα θεόν, τῷ πέρ τε μέλεσθαι
ἀγγελίας καὶ σκῆπτρον ἐπέτρεπον Ἑρμείας,
σφωιτέροιο τοκῆος, ὃ οἱ μνήστιν πόρε πάντων
ἄφθιτον· οὐδ' ἔτι νῦν περ ἀποιοχομένου Ἀχέροντος
δίνας ἀπροφατους ψυχὴν ἐπιδέδρομε λήθη·
ἀλλ' ἦγ' ἔμπεδον αἰὲν ἀμειβομένη μεμόρηται,
ἄλλοθ' ὑποχθονίοις ἐναρίθμιος, ἄλλοτ' ἐς αὐγὰς
ἡελίου ζωοῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσιν. ἀλλὰ τί μύθους
Αἰθαλίδεω χρεῖώ με διηνεκέως ἀγορεύειν;
ὅς ῥα τόθ' Ὑψιπύλην μειλίζατο δέχθαι ἰόντας 650

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Thoas, who was king over the people ; and she sent him in a hollow chest to drift over the sea, if haply he should escape. And fishermen dragged him to shore at the island of Oenoe, formerly Oenoe, but afterwards called Sicinus from Sicinus, whom the water-nymph Oenoe bore to Thoas. Now for all the women to tend kine, to don armour of bronze, and to cleave with the plough-share the wheat-bearing fields, was easier than the works of Athena, with which they were busied aforetime. Yet for all that did they often gaze over the broad sea, in grievous fear against the Thracians' coming. So when they saw Argo being rowed near the island, straightway crowding in multitude from the gates of Myrine and clad in their harness of war, they poured forth to the beach like ravening Thyiades ; for they deemed that the Thracians were come ; and with them Hypsipyle, daughter of Thoas, donned her father's harness. And they streamed down speechless with dismay ; such fear was wafted about them.

Meantime from the ship the chiefs had sent Aethalides the swift herald, to whose care they entrusted their messages and the wand of Hermes, his sire, who had granted him a memory of all things, that never grew dim ; and not even now, though he has entered the unspeakable whirlpools of Acheron, has forgetfulness swept over his soul, but its fixed doom is to be ever changing its abode ; at one time to be numbered among the dwellers beneath the earth, at another to be in the light of the sun among living men. But why need I tell at length tales of Aethalides ? He at that time persuaded Hypsipyle to receive the new-comers as the

ἡματος ἀνομένοιο διὰ κνέφας· οὐδὲ μὲν ἡοῖ
πείσματα νηὸς ἔλυσαν ἐπὶ πνοιῇ βορέαιο.

Λημνιάδες δὲ γυναῖκες ἀνὰ πτόλιν ἵζον ἰοῦσαι
εἰς ἀγορήν· αὐτὴ γὰρ ἐπέφραδεν Ὑψιπύλεια.
καί ῥ' ὅτε δὴ μάλα πᾶσαι ὁμιλαδὸν ἡγερέθοντο,
αὐτίκ' ἄρ' ἡγ' ἐνὶ τῇσιν ἐποτρύνουσ' ἀγόρευεν·

ᾠ φίλαι, εἰ δ' ἄγε δὴ μενοεικέα δῶρα πόρωμεν
ἀνδράσιν, οἷά τ' ἔοικεν ἄγειν ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔχοντας,
ἦια, καὶ μέθυ λαρόν, ἵν' ἔμπεδον ἔκτοθι πύργων
μῖμνοιεν, μῆδ' ἄμμε κατὰ χρεῖῳ μεθέποντες
ἀτρεκέως γνῶωσι, κακὴ δ' ἐπὶ πολλὸν ἵκηται
βᾶξις· ἐπεὶ μέγα ἔργον ἐρέξαμεν, οὐδέ τι πάμπαν
θυμηδὲς καὶ τοῖσι τόγ' ἔσσεται, εἴ κε δαεῖεν.
ἡμετέρη μὲν νῦν τοίῃ παρενήνοθε μῆτις·
ὑμέων δ' εἴ τις ἄρειον ἔπος μῆτίσεται ἄλλη,
ἐγρέσθω· τοῦ γάρ τε καὶ εἵνεκα δεῦρο κύλεσσα.'

669

ᾠς ἄρ' ἔφη, καὶ θῶκον ἐφίζανε πατρὸς ἐοῖο
λαῖνον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα φίλῃ τροφὸς ὦρτο Πολυξώ,
γῆραϊ δὴ ῥικνοῖσιν ἐπισκάζουσα πόδεσσιν,
βάκτρῳ ἐρειδομένη, περὶ δὲ μενείαν' ἀγορεῦσαι.
τῇ καὶ παρθεναὶ πίσυρες σχεδὸν ἐδριόωντο
αἰδμήτες λευκῇσιν ἐπιχνοαῖουσιν¹ ἐθείραις.
στῇ δ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ μέσση ἀγορῇ, ἀνὰ δ' ἔσχεθε δειρὴν
ἦκα μόλις κυφοῖο μεταφρένου, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·

679

Ἰ Δῶρα μὲν, ὥς αὐτῇ περ ἐφاندάνει Ὑψιπυλείη,
πέμπωμεν ξείνοισιν, ἐπεὶ καὶ ἄρειον ὀπίσσαι.
ὑμμι γε μὴν τίς μῆτις ἐπαύρεσθαι βιότοιο
αἶ κεν ἐπιβρίσῃ Θρήϊξ στρατός, ἢ τίς ἄλλος
δυσμενέων, ἅτε πολλὰ μετ' ἀνθρώποισι πέλονται·
ὥς καὶ νῦν ὅδ' ὁμιλος ἀνωίστως ἐφικάνει.

689

¹ ἐπιχνοαούση Passow and recent editors.

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day was waning into darkness ; nor yet at dawn did they loose the ship's hawsers to the breath of the north wind.

Now the Lemnian women fared through the city and sat down to the assembly, for Hypsipyle herself had so bidden. And when they were all gathered together in one great throng straightway she spake among them with stirring words :

“O friends, come let us grant these men gifts to their hearts' desire, such as it is fitting that they should take on ship-board, food and sweet wine, in order that they may steadfastly remain outside our towers, and may not, passing among us for need's sake, get to know us all too well, and so an evil report be widely spread ; for we have wrought a terrible deed and in nowise will it be to their liking, should they learn it. Such is our counsel now, but if any of you can devise a better plan let her rise, for it was on this account that I summoned you hither.”

Thus she spake and sat upon her father's seat of stone, and then rose up her dear nurse Polyxo, for very age halting upon her withered feet, bowed over a staff, and she was eager to address them. Near her were seated four virgins, unwedded, crowned with white hair. And she stood in the midst of the assembly and from her bent back she feebly raised her neck and spake thus :

“Gifts, as Hypsipyle herself wishes, let us send to the strangers, for it is better to give them. But for you what device have ye to get profit of your life if the Thracian host fall upon us, or some other foe, as often happens among men, even as now this company is come unforeseen? But if one of the

εἰ δὲ τὸ μὲν μακάρων τις ἀποτρέποι, ἄλλα δ'
ὀπίσσω

μυρία δηιοτήτος ὑπέρτερα πῆματα μίμνει,
εὖτ' ἂν δὴ γεραραὶ μὲν ἀποφθινύθωσι γυναῖκες,
κουρότεραι δ' ἄγονοι στυγερὸν ποτὶ γῆρας ἵκησθε.
πῶς τῆμος βώσεσθε δυσάμμοροι; ἦε βαθείαις
αὐτόματοι βόες ὕμιν ἐνιζευχθέντες ἀρούραις
γειοτόμον νειοῖο διειρύσσουσιν ἄροτρον,
καὶ πρόκα τελλομένου ἔτεος στάχυν ἀμήσονται;
ἦ μὲν ἐγών, εἰ καὶ με τὰ νῦν ἔτι πεφρίκασιν
Κῆρες, ἐπερχόμενόν που οἶομαι εἰς ἔτος ἤδη
γαῖαν ἐφέσσεσθαι, κτερέων ἀπὸ μοῖραν ἐλουσαν
αὕτως, ἣ θέμις ἐστί, πάρος κακότητα πελάσσαι.
ὀπλοτέρησι δὲ πάγχυ τάδε φράζεσθαι ἄνωγα.
νῦν γὰρ δὴ παρὰ ποσσὶν ἐπήβολός ἐστ' ἄλεωρή,
εἴ κεν ἐπιτρέψῃτε δόμους καὶ λήϊδα πᾶσαν
ὑμετέρην ξείνοισι καὶ ἀγλαὸν ἄστνυ μέλεσθαι.'

690

᾽Ως ἔφατ'· ἐν δ' ἀγορῇ πλήτο θρόου. εὐαδε γάρ
σφιν

μῦθος. ἀτὰρ μετὰ τήνγε παρασχεδὸν αὖτις ἀνῶρτο
'Τψιπύλῃ, καὶ τοῖον ὑποβλήδην ἔπος ηὔδα·

Ἐἰ μὲν δὴ πάσῃσιν ἐφاندάνει ἦδε μενοινή,
ἦδη κεν μετὰ νῆα καὶ ἄγγελον ὀτρύναιμι.'

700

Ἦ ῥα, καὶ Ἰφινόην μετεφώνεεν ἄσσον ἐοῦσαν·

'Ὅρσο μοι, Ἰφινόη, τοῦδ' ἀνέρος ἀντιόωσα,
ἡμέτερόνδε μολεῖν, ὅστις στόλου ἡγεμοιεύει,
ὄφρα τί οἱ δῆμοιο ἔπος θυμῆρες ἐνίσπω·

καὶ δ' αὐτοὺς γαίης τε καὶ ἄστεος, αἶ κ' ἐθέλωσιν,
κέκλεο θαρσαλέως ἐπιβαινέμεν εὐμενέοντας.'

Ἦ, καὶ ἔλυσ' ἀγορήν, μετὰ δ' εἰς ἐὼν ὦρτο
νέεσθαι.

Ὡς δὲ καὶ Ἰφινόη Μινύας ἴκεθ'. οἱ δ' ἐρέεινον,

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blessed gods should turn this aside yet countless other woes, worse than battle, remain behind, when the aged women die off and ye younger ones, without children, reach hateful old age. How then will ye live, hapless ones? Will your oxen of their own accord yoke themselves for the deep ploughlands and draw the earth-cleaving share through the fallow, and forthwith, as the year comes round, reap the harvest? Assuredly, though the fates till now have shunned me in horror, I deem that in the coming year I shall put on the garment of earth, when I have received my meed of burial even so as is right, before the evil days draw near. But I bid you who are younger give good heed to this. For now at your feet a way of escape lies open, if ye trust to the strangers the care of your homes and all your stock and your glorious city."

Thus she spake, and the assembly was filled with clamour. For the word pleased them. And after her straightway Hypsipyle rose up again, and thus spake in reply.

"If this purpose please you all, now will I even send a messenger to the ship."

She spake and addressed Iphinoe close at hand: "Go, Iphinoe, and beg yonder man, whoever it is that leads this array, to come to our land that I may tell him a word that pleases the heart of my people, and bid the men themselves, if they wish, boldly enter the land and the city with friendly intent."

She spake, and dismissed the assembly, and thereafter started to return home. And so Iphinoe came to the Minyae; and they asked with what intent

χρεῖος ὃ τί φρονέουσα μετήλυθεν. ὦκα δὲ τούσγε 710
 πασσυδίῃ μύθοισι προσέννεπεν ἐξερέοντας·

‘Κούρη τοί μ’ ἐφέηκε Θοαντιάς ἐνθάδ’ ἰούσαν,
 Ὑψιπύλῃ, καλέειν νηὸς πρόμον, ὅστις ὄρωρεν.
 ὄφρα τί οἱ δῆμοιο ἔπος θυμῆρες ἐνίσπη·
 καὶ δ’ αὐτοὺς γαίης τε καὶ ἄστεος, αἴ κ’ ἐθέλητε,
 κέκλεται αὐτίκα νῦν ἐπιβαινέμεν εὐμενέοντας.’

Ὡς ἄρ’ ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ’ ἐναίσιμος ἦϊδαιε
 μῦθος.

Ὑψιπύλῃν δ’ εἶσαντο καταφθιμένοιο Θόαντος
 τηλυγέτην γεγαυῖαν ἀναστέμεν· ὦκα δὲ τόνγε
 πέμπον ἵμεν, καὶ δ’ αὐτοὶ ἐπεντύνοντο νέεσθαι. 720·

Αὐτὰρ ὅγ’ ἀμφ’ ὥμοισι θεᾶς Τριτωνίδος ἔργον
 δίπλακα πορφυρέην περυνήσατο, τὴν οἱ ὅπασσεν
 Παλλὰς, ὅτε πρῶτον δρυόχους ἐπεβάλλετο ἰηὸς
 Ἀργοῦς, καὶ κανόνεσσι δάε ζυγὰ μετρήσασθαι.

τῆς μὲν ῥῆίτερόν κεν ἐς ἥελιον ἀνιόντα
 ὅσσε βάλοις, ἢ κείνο μεταβλέψειας ἔρευθος.
 δὴ γάρ τοι μέσση μὲν ἐρευθήεσσα τέτυκτο,
 ἄκρα δὲ πορφυρέῃ πάντῃ πέλει· ἐν δ’ ἄρ’ ἐκάστω
 τέρματι δαίδαλα πολλὰ διακριδὸν εὖ ἐπέπαστο.¹

Ἐν μὲν ἔσαν Κύκλωπες ἐπ’ ἀφθίτῳ ἡμεῖνοι ἔργω, 730
 Ζηνὶ κεραυνὸν ἀνακτι ποιεύμενοι· ὅς τόσων ἤδη
 παμφαίνων ἐτέτυκτο, μῆς δ’ ἔτι δεύετο μοῖνον
 ἀκτῖνος, τὴν οὔγε σιδηρεῖης ἐλάασκον
 σφύρῃσιν μαλεροῖο πυρὸς ζείουσαν αὐτμήν.

Ἐν δ’ ἔσαν Ἀντιόπης Ἀσωπίδος υἱέε δοιῶ,
 Ἀμφίων καὶ Ζῆθος· ἀπύργωτος δ’ ἔτι Θήβῃ

¹ ἐπέπαστο Ruhnken : ἐκέκαστο MSS.

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she had come among them. And quickly she addressed her questioners with all speed in these words :

“The maiden Hypsipyle daughter of Thoas, sent me on my way here to you, to summon the captain of your ship, whoever he be, that she may tell him a word that pleases the heart of the people, and she bids yourselves, if ye wish it, straightway enter the land and the city with friendly intent.”

Thus she spake and the speech of good omen pleased all. And they deemed that Thoas was dead and that his beloved daughter Hypsipyle was queen, and quickly they sent Jason on his way and themselves made ready to go.

Now he had buckled round his shoulders a purple mantle of double fold, the work of the Tritonian goddess, which Pallas had given him when she first laid the keel-props of the ship Argo and taught him how to measure timbers with the rule. More easily wouldst thou cast thy eyes upon the sun at its rising than behold that blazing splendour. For indeed in the middle the fashion thereof was red, but at the ends it was all purple, and on each margin many separate devices had been skilfully inwoven.

In it were the Cyclops seated at their imperishable work, forging a thunderbolt for King Zeus ; by now it was almost finished in its brightness and still it wanted but one ray, which they were beating out with their iron hammers as it spurted forth a breath of raging flame.

In it too were the twin sons of Antiope, daughter of Asopus, Amphion and Zethus, and Thebe still ungirt with towers was lying near, whose foundations

κεῖτο πέλας, τῆς οἴγε νέον βάλλοντο δομαίους
 ἰέμενοι. Ζῆθος μὲν ἐπωμαδὸν ἤερταζεν
 οὔρεος ἡλιβάτοιο κάρη, μογέοντι ἐοικώς·

Ἀμφίων δ' ἐπὶ οἷ χρυσέῃ φόρμιγγι λιγαίνων
 ἦε, δις τόσση δὲ μετ' ἔχνια νίσσετο πέτρη.

749

Ἐξείης δ' ἤσκητο βαθυπλόκαμος Κυθήρεια
 Ἄρεος ὀχμάζουσα θοὸν σάκος· ἐκ δέ οἱ ὤμου
 πῆχυν ἐπὶ σκαιὸν ξυνοχὴ κεχύλαστο χιτῶνος
 νέρθεν ὑπὲκ μαζοῖο· τὸ δ' ἀντίον ἀτρεκές αὐτῶς
 χαλκείῃ δείκῃλον ἐν ἀσπίδι φαίνεται ἰδέσθαι.

Ἐν δὲ βοῶν ἔσκεν λάσιος νομός· ἀμφὶ δὲ βουσὶν
 Τηλεβόαι μάρναντο καὶ νιέες Ἥλεκτρυῶνος·
 οἱ μὲν ἀμυνόμενοι, ἀτὰρ οἴγ' ἐθέλοντες ἀμέρσαι,
 ληισταὶ Τάφιοι· τῶν δ' αἵματι δεύετο λειμῶν
 ἐρσήεις, πολέες δ' ὀλίγους βιόωντο νομῆας.

750

Ἐν δὲ δύνω δίφροι πεπονήατο δηριόωντες.
 καὶ τὸν μὲν προπάροιθε Πέλοψ ἴθυιε, τινάσσων
 ἡνία, σὺν δέ οἱ ἔσκε παραιβάτις Ἴπποδάμεια·
 τὸν δὲ μεταδρομάδην ἐπὶ Μυρτίλος ἤλασεν ἵππους,
 σὺν τῷ δ' Οἰνόμαος προτενὲς δόρυ χειρὶ μεμαρπῶς
 ἄξονος ἐν πλήμνῃσι παρακλιδὸν ἀγνυμένοιο
 πῖπτεν, ἐπεσσύμενος Πελοπῆια νῶτα δαΐξαι.

Ἐν καὶ Ἀπόλλων Φοῖβος οἰστεύων ἐτέτυκτο.
 βούπαις οὔπω πολλός, ἐὴν ἐρύοντα καλύπτρης
 μητέρα θαρσαλέως Τιτυὸν μέγαν, ὃν ῥ' ἔτεκέν γε
 δι' Ἑλάρη, θρέψεν δὲ καὶ ἄψ' ἐλοχεύσατο Γαῖα.

760

Ἐν καὶ Φρίξος ἔην Μινυῆιος ὥς ἐπεὶ περ
 εἰσαΐων κριοῦ, ὃ δ' ἄρ' ἐξενέποντι ἐοικώς.
 κείνους κ' εἰσορόων ἀκέοις, ψεύδοιό τε θυμόν,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

they were just then laying in eager haste. Zethus on his shoulders was lifting the peak of a steep mountain, like a man toiling hard, and Amphion after him, singing loud and clear on his golden lyre, moved on, and a rock twice as large followed his footsteps.

Next in order had been wrought Cytherea with drooping tresses, wielding the swift shield of Ares; and from her shoulder to her left arm the fastening of her tunic was loosed beneath her breast; and opposite in the shield of bronze her image appeared clear to view as she stood.

And in it there was a well-wooded pasturage of oxen; and about the oxen the Teleboae and the sons of Electryon were fighting; the one party defending themselves, the others, the Taphian raiders, longing to rob them; and the dewy meadow was drenched with their blood, and the many were overmastering the few herdsmen.

And therein were fashioned two chariots, racing, and the one in front Pelops was guiding, as he shook the reins, and with him was Hippodameia at his side, and in pursuit Myrtilus urged his steeds, and with him Oenomaus had grasped his couchèd spear, but fell as the axle swerved and broke in the nave, while he was eager to pierce the back of Pelops.

And in it was wrought Phoebus Apollo, a stripling not yet grown up, in the act of shooting at mighty Tityos who was boldly dragging his mother by her veil, Tityos whom glorious Elare bare, but Earth nursed him and gave him second birth.

And in it was Phrixus the Minyan as though he were in very deed listening to the ram, while it was like one speaking. [Beholding them thou wouldst

ἐλπόμενος πυκινήν τιν' ἀπὸ σφείων ἑσακοῦσαι
βάξιν, ὃ καὶ δηρὸν περ ἐπ' ἐλπίδι θηήσαιο.

Τοῖ' ἄρα δῶρα θεᾶς Τριτωνίδος ἦεν Ἀθήνης.
δεξιτερῇ δ' ἔλεν ἔγχος ἐκηβόλον, ὃ ῥ' Ἀταλάντη
Μαινάλῳ ἔν ποτέ οἱ ξεινήιον ἐγγυάλιξεν, 770
πρόφρων ἀντομένη· περὶ γὰρ μενέαινεν ἔπεσθαι
τὴν ὁδόν. ἀλλὰ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἐκὼν ἀπερήτυε κούρην,
δεῖσεν δ' ἀργαλέας ἔριδας φιλότητος ἔκητι.

Βῆ δ' ἵμεναι προτὶ ἄστν, φαεινῷ ἀστέρι ἴσος,
ὃν ῥά τε νηγατέησιν ἐεργόμεναι καλύβησιν
νύμφαι θηήσαντο δόμων ὕπερ ἀντέλλοντα,
καὶ σφισι κυανέοιο δι' ἡέρος ὄμματα θέλγει
καλὸν ἐρευθόμενος, γάννυται δέ τε ἡιθέοιο
παρθένος ἰμείρουσα μετ' ἀλλοδαποῖσιν ἐοίτος 780
ἀνδράσιν, ᾧ καὶ μιν μνηστὴν κομέουσι τοκῆς·
τῷ ἵκελος πρὸ πόλῃος ἀνὰ στίβον ἦεν ἥρως.
καὶ ῥ' ὅτε δὴ πυλέων τε καὶ ἄστεος ἐντὸς ἔβησαν,
δημότεραι μὲν ὀπισθεν ἐπεκλονέοντο γυναῖκες,
γηθόσυναι ξείνῳ· ὃ δ' ἐπὶ χθονὸς ὄμματ' ἐρείσας
νίσσεται ἀπηλεγέως, ὄφρ' ἀγλαὰ δώμαθ' ἵκανεν
Ἑψιπύλης· ἀνεσταν δὲ πύλας προφανέντι θεράπναι
δικλίδας, εὐτύκτοισιν ἀρηρεμένας σανίδεσσιν.
ἔνθα μιν Ἰφινόη κλισμῷ ἐνὶ παμφανόωντι
ἐσσυμένως καλῆς διὰ παστιάδος εἶσεν ἄγουσα
ἀντία δεσποίνης· ἥ δ' ἐγκλιδὸν ὅσσε βαλοῦσα 790
παρθενικὰς ἐρύθηνε παρηίδας· ἔμπα δὲ τότε γε
αἰδομένη μύθοισι προσέννεπεν αἰμυλίουσιν·

Ἐεῖνε, τίη μίμνοντες ἐπὶ χρόνον ἔκτοθι πύργων
ἦσθ' αὐτῶς; ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ὑπ' ἀνδράσι ναίεται ἄστν,
ἀλλὰ Θρηκίης ἐπινάστιοι ἡπίεριοι
πυροφόρους ἀρώωσι γύας. κακότητα δὲ πᾶσαν
ἐξερέω νημερτές, ἵν' εὖ γνοίητε καὶ αὐτοί.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

be silent and wouldst cheat thy soul with the hope of hearing some wise speech from them, and long wouldst thou gaze with that hope.

Such then were the gifts of the Tritonian goddess Athena. And in his right hand Jason held a far-darting spear, which Atalanta gave him once as a gift of hospitality in Maenalus as she met him gladly; for she eagerly desired to follow on that quest; but he himself of his own accord prevented the maid, for he feared bitter strife on account of her love.

And he went on his way to the city like to a bright star, which maidens, pent up in new-built chambers, behold as it rises above their homes, and through the dark air it charms their eyes with its fair red gleam and the maid rejoices, love-sick for the youth who is far away amid strangers, for whom her parents are keeping her to be his bride; like to that star the hero trod the way to the city. And when they had passed within the gates and the city, the women of the people surged behind them, delighting in the stranger, but he with his eyes fixed on the ground fared straight on, till he reached the glorious palace of Hypsipyle; and when he appeared the maids opened the folding doors, fitted with well-fashioned panels. Here Iphinoe leading him quickly through a fair porch set him upon a shining seat opposite her mistress, but Hypsipyle turned her eyes aside and a blush covered her maiden cheeks, yet for all her modesty she addressed him with crafty words:

“Stranger, why stay ye so long outside our towers? for the city is not inhabited by the men, but they, as sojourners, plough the wheat-bearing fields of the Thracian mainland. And I will tell out truly all our evil plight, that ye yourselves too may know it well.

εὔτε Θόας ἀστοῖσι πατὴρ ἐμὸς ἐμβασίλευεν,
 τηνίκα Θρηκίην, οἷτ' ἀντία ναιετάουσιν,
 δήμου ἀπορνύμενοι λαοὶ πέρθεσκον ἐπαύλους 500
 ἐκ νηῶν, αὐτῇσι δ' ἀπείρονα λήϊδα κούραις
 δεῦρ' ἄγον· οὐλομένης δὲ θεᾶς πορσύνετο μῆτις
 Κύπριδος, ἥτε σφιν θυμοφθόρον ἔμβαλεν ἄτην.
 δὴ γὰρ κουριδίας μὲν ἀπέστυγον, ἐκ δὲ μελάθρων,
 ἧ ματίῃ εἷξαντες, ἀπεσσεύοντο γυναῖκας·
 αὐτὰρ ληιάδεσσι δορικτήταις παρίανον,
 σχέτλιοι. ἧ μὲν δηρὸν ἐτέτλαμεν, εἴ κέ ποτ' αὖτις
 ὄψῃ μεταστρέψωσι νόον· τὸ δὲ διπλόον αἰεὶ
 πῆμα κακὸν προύβαινε. ἀτιμάζοντο δὲ τέκνα
 γυνῆσιν ἐνὶ μεγάροις, σκοτίῃ δ' ἀνέτελλε γενέθλη. 810
 αὐτῶς δ' ἀδμήτες κούραι,¹ χῆραί τ' ἐπὶ τῇσιν
 μητέρες ἅμ' πτολίεθρον ἀτημελέες ἀλάληντο.
 οὐδὲ πατὴρ ὀλίγον περ ἐῆς ἀλέγιζε θυγατρός,
 εἰ καὶ ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι δαΐζομένην ὀρόφτο
 μητρυῆς ὑπὸ χερσὶν ἀτασθάλουν· οὐδ' ἀπὸ μητρὸς
 λώβην, ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν, ἀεικέα παῖδες ἄμυνον·
 οὐδὲ κασιγνήτοισι κασιγνήτῃ μέλε θυμῷ.
 ἀλλ' οἶαι κούραι ληίτιδες ἔν τε δόμοισιν
 ἔν τε χοροῖς ἀγορῇ τε καὶ εἰλαπίνῃσι μέλοντο·
 εἰσόκε τις θεὸς ἄμμιν ὑπέρβιον ἔμβαλε θάρσος, 820
 ἄψ' ἀναερχομένους Θρηκῶν ἄπο μηκέτι πύργοις
 δέχθαι, ἵν' ἡ φρονέοιεν ἅπερ θέμις, ἢ πῃ ἄλλη
 αὐταῖς ληιάδεσσιν ἀφορμηθέντες ἵκοντο.
 οἱ δ' ἄρα θεσσάμενοι παίδων γένος, ὅσσον ἔλειπτο
 ἄρσεν ἀνὰ πτολίεθρον, ἔβαν πάλιν, ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
 Θρηκίης ἄροσιν χιονώδεα ναιετάουσιν.

¹ κούραι Rzach : τε κόραι MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

When my father Thoas reigned over the citizens, then our folk starting from their homes used to plunder from their ships the dwellings of the Thracians who live opposite, and they brought back hither measureless booty and maidens too. But the counsel of the baneful goddess Cypris was working out its accomplishment, who brought upon them soul-destroying infatuation. For they hated their lawful wives, and, yielding to their own mad folly, drove them from their homes; and they took to their beds the captives of their spear, cruel ones. Long in truth we endured it, if haply again, though late, they might change their purpose, but ever the bitter woe grew, twofold. And the lawful children were being dishonoured in their halls, and a bastard race was rising. And thus unmarried maidens and widowed mothers too wandered uncared for through the city; no father heeded his daughter ever so little even though he should see her done to death before his eyes at the hands of an insolent step-dame, nor did sons, as before, defend their mother against unseemly outrage; nor did brothers care at heart for their sister. But in their homes, in the dance, in the assembly and the banquet all their thought was only for their captive maidens; until some god put desperate courage in our hearts no more to receive our lords on their return from Thrace within our towers so that they might either heed the right or might depart and begone elsewhither, they and their captives. So they begged of us all the male children that were left in the city and went back to where even now they dwell on the snowy tilths of Thrace.

τῷ ὑμεῖς στρωφᾶσθ' ἐπιδήμιοι· εἰ δέ κεν αὐθι
ναιετάειν ἐθέλοις, καί τοι ἄδοι, ἧ τ' ἂν ἔπειτα
πατρὸς ἐμεῖο Θόαντος ἔχοις γέρας· οὐδέ τί σ' οἶω
γαῖαν ὀνόσσεσθαι· περὶ γὰρ βαθυλήϊος ἄλλων

830

νήσων, Αἰγαίῃ ὅσαι εἰν ἀλὶ ναιετάουσιν.
ἀλλ' ἄγε νῦν ἐπὶ νῆα κιὼν ἐτάροισιν ἐνίσπες
μύθους ἡμετέρους, μηδ' ἔκτοθι μίμνε πόληος.'

Ἴσκειν, ἀμαλδύνουσα φόνου τέλος, οἶον ἐτύχθη
ἀνδράσιν· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·

Ἐψιπύλῃ, μάλα κεν θυμηδέος ἀντιάσαιμεν
χρησιμοσύνης, ἣν ἄμμι σέθεν χατέουσιν ὀπάξεις.
εἴμι δ' ὑπότροπος αὐτῆς ἀνὰ πτόλιν, εὖτ' ἂν ἕκαστα
ἐξείπω κατὰ κόσμον. ἀνακτορίῃ δὲ μελέσθω
σοίγ' αὐτῇ καὶ νῆσος· ἔγωγε μὲν οὐκ ἀθερίζων
χάζομαι, ἀλλὰ με λυγροὶ ἐπισπέρχουσιν ἄεθλοι.'

840

Ἦ, καὶ δεξιτερῆς χειρὸς θίγεν· αἶψα δ' ὀπίσσω
βῆ ῥ' ἴμεν, ἀμφὶ δὲ τόνγε νεῖνιδες ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι
μυρίαὶ εἰλίσσοντο κεχαρμέναι, ὄρφα πυλάων
ἐξέμολεν. μετέπειτα δ' ἐντροχάλοισιν ἀμάξαις
ἀκτὴν εἰσαπέβαν, ξεινήϊα πολλὰ φέρουσai,
μῦθον ὅτ' ἤδη πάντα διηνεκέως ἀγόρευσεν,
τόν ῥα καλεσσομένη διεπέφραδεν Ἐψιπύλεια·
καὶ δ' αὐτοὺς ξεινῶσθαι ἐπὶ σφέα δώματ' ἄγεσκον
ῥηιδίως. Κύπρις γὰρ ἐπὶ γλυκὺν ἴμερον ὥρσεν

850

Ἠφαίστοιο χάριν πολυμήτιος, ὄφρα κεν αὐτῆς
ναίηται μετόπισθεν ἀκήρατος ἀνδράσι Λῆμνος.
Ἐνθ' ὁ μὲν Ἐψιπύλῃς βασιλῆιον ἐς δόμον ὤρτο
Αἰσονίδης· οἱ δ' ἄλλοι ὅπη καὶ ἔκυρσαν ἕκαστος,
Ἡρακλῆος ἀνευθεν, ὁ γὰρ παρὰ νηὶ λέλειπτο

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK 1

Do ye therefore stay and settle with us; and shouldst thou desire to dwell here, and this finds favour with thee, assuredly thou shalt have the prerogative of my father Thoas; and I deem that thou wilt not scorn our land at all; for it is deep-soiled beyond all other islands that lie in the Aegæan sea. But come now, return to the ship and relate my words to thy comrades, and stay not outside our city."

She spoke, glozing over the murder that had been wrought upon the men; and Jason addressed her in answer:

"Hypsipyle, very dear to our hearts is the help we shall meet with, which thou grantest to us who need thee. And I will return again to the city when I have told everything in order due. But let the sovereignty of the island be thine; it is not in scorn I yield it up, but grievous trials urge me on."

He spake, and touched her right hand; and quickly he turned to go back: and round him the young maids on every side danced in countless numbers in their joy till he passed through the gates. And then they came to the shore in smooth-running wains, bearing with them many gifts, when now he had related from beginning to end the speech which Hypsipyle had spoken when she summoned them; and the maids readily led the men back to their homes for entertainment. For Cypris stirred in them a sweet desire, for the sake of Hephaestus of many counsels, in order that Lemnos might be again inhabited by men and not be ruined.

Thereupon Aeson's son started to go to the royal home of Hypsipyle; and the rest went each his way as chance took them, all but Heracles; for he of his

αὐτὸς ἐκὼν παῦροί τε διακρινθέντες ἐταῖροι.
 αὐτίκα δ' ἄστυ χοροῖσι καὶ εἰλαπίνησι γεγίθει
 καπνῷ κνισήεντι περίπλεον· ἔξοχα δ' ἄλλων
 ἀθανάτων Ἥρης υἱὰ κλυτὸν ἠδὲ καὶ αὐτὴν
 Κύπριν ἀοιδῆσιν θυέεσσί τε μειλίσσοντο.
 ἀμβολίῃ δ' εἰς ἡμαρ αἰεὶ ἐξ ἡματος ἦεν
 ναυτιλίας· δηρὸν δ' ἂν ἐλίννον αὖθι μένοντες,
 εἰ μὴ ἀολλίσσας ἐτάρους ἀπάνευθε γυναικῶν
 Ἑρακλῆς τοίοισιν ἐνιπτάζων μετέειπεν·

860

ἄδαιμόνιοι, πάτρης ἐμφύλιον αἶμα' ἀποέργει
 ἡμέας; ἦε γάμων ἐπιδευέες ἐνθάδ' ἔβημεν
 κεῖθεν, ὀνοῦσάμενοι πολιήτιδας; αὖθι δ' ἔαδεν
 ναίοντας λιπαρὴν ἄροσιν Λήμνοιο ταμέσθαι;
 οὐ μὰν εὐκλειεῖς γε σὺν ὀθνεῖησι γυναιξίν
 ἐσσύμεθ' ὧδ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἐελμένοι· οὐδέ τι κῶας
 αὐτόματον δώσει τις ἐλὼν θεὸς εὐξαμένοισιν.
 ἴομεν αὖτις ἕκαστοι ἐπὶ σφέα· τὸν δ' ἐνὶ λέκτροις
 Ὑψιπύλης εἰᾶτε πανήμερον, εἰσόκε Λῆμνον
 παῖσιν ἐσανδρώσῃ, μεγάλη τέ ἐβάξισ ἵκηται·

870

ὣς νεέκεσσαν ὄμιλον· ἐναντία δ' οὐ νύ τις ἔτλη
 ὄμματ' ἀνασχεθέειν, οὐδὲ προτιμυθήσασθαι·
 ἀλλ' αὖτως ἀγορήθεν ἐπαρτίζοντο νέεσθαι
 σπερχόμενοι. ταὶ δέ σφιν ἐπέδραμον, εὖτ' ἐδάησαν.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε λείρια καλὰ περιβρομέουσι μέλισσαι
 πέτρης ἐκχύμεναι σιμβληίδος, ἀμφὶ δὲ λειμῶν
 ἐρσήεις γάννυται, ταὶ δὲ γλυκὺν ἄλλοτε ἄλλον
 καρπὸν ἀμέργουσιν πεποτημέναι· ὥς ἄρα ταίγε
 ἐνδυκὲς ἀνέρας ἀμφὶ κινυρόμεναι προχέοντο,
 χερσὶ τε καὶ μύθοισιν ἐδεικαιόωντο ἕκαστον,

880

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

own will was left behind by the ship and a few chosen comrades with him. And straightway the city rejoiced with dances and banquets, being filled with the steam of sacrifice ; and above all the immortals they propitiated with songs and sacrifices the illustrious son of Hera and Cypris herself. And the sailing was ever delayed from one day to another ; and long would they have lingered there, had not Heracles, gathering together his comrades apart from the women, thus addressed them with reproachful words :

“ Wretched men, does the murder of kindred keep us from our native land ? Or is it in want of marriage that we have come hither from thence, in scorn of our countrywomen ? Does it please us to dwell here and plough the rich soil of Lemnos ? No fair renown shall we win by thus tarrying so long with stranger women ; nor will some god seize and give us at our prayer a fleece that moves of itself. Let us then return each to his own ; but him leave ye to rest all day long in the embrace of Hypsipyle until he has peopled Lemnos with men-children, and so there come to him great glory.”

Thus did he chide the band ; but no one dared to meet his eye or to utter a word in answer. But just as they were in the assembly they made ready their departure in all haste, and the women came running towards them, when they knew their intent. And as when bees hum round fair lilies pouring forth from their hive in the rock, and all around the dewy meadow rejoices, and they gather the sweet fruit, flitting from one to another ; even so the women eagerly poured forth, clustering round the men with loud lament, and greeted each one with hands and

εὐχόμεναι μακάρεσσιν ἀπήμονα νόστον ὀπάσσαι.
ὥς δὲ καὶ Ὑψιπύλῃ ἡρήσατο χεῖρας ἐλούσα
Αἰσονίδεω, τὰ δέ οἱ ῥέε δάκρυα χήτει ἰόντος·

‘Νίσσεο, καὶ σὲ θεοὶ σὺν ἀπηρέσιν αὐτὶς ἐταίροις
χρύσειον βασιλῇ δέρος κομίσειαν ἄγοντα
αὐτῶς, ὥς ἐθέλεις καὶ τοι φίλον· ἦδε δὲ νῆσος
σκῆπτρά τε πατρὸς ἐμείο παρέσσεται, ἣν καὶ
ὀπίσσω

890

δὴ ποτε νοστήσας ἐθέλῃς ἄψορρον ἰκέσθαι.
ῥηιδίως δ’ ἂν ἐοῖ καὶ ἀπείρονα λαὸν ἀγείραις
ἄλλων ἐκ πολίων. ἀλλ’ οὐ σύγῃ τήνδε μενοινῇν
σχήσεις, οὐτ’ αὐτὴ προτιόσσομαι ὧδε τελεῖσθαι.
μνώεο μὲν ἀπεῶν περ ὁμῶς καὶ νόστιμος ἦδη
Ὑψιπύλῃς· λίπε δ’ ἡμῖν ἔπος, τό κεν ἐξανύσαιμι
πρόφρων, ἣν ἄρα δὴ με θεοὶ δώωσι τεκέσθαι.’

Τὴν δ’ αὐτ’ Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἀγαιόμενος προσέειπεν·
‘Ὑψιπύλῃ, τὰ μὲν οὕτω ἐναίσιμα πάντα γένοιτο
ἐκ μακάρων· τύνῃ δ’ ἐμέθεν πέρι θυμὸν ἀρεῖω
ἴσχαν,’ ἐπεὶ πάτρην μοι ἄλῃς Πελῖας ἔκητι
ναιετάειν· μούνον με θεοὶ λύσειαν ἀέθλων.
εἰ δ’ οὐ μοι πέπρωται ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι
τηλοῦ ἀναπλώοντι, σὺ δ’ ἄρσενά παιῖδα τέκῃαι,
πέμπε μιν ἡβήσαντα Πελασγίδος ἔνδον Ἴωλκοῦ
πατρί τ’ ἐμῷ καὶ μητρὶ δύης ἄκος, ἣν ἄρα τούσγῃ
τέτμη ἔτι ζῶοντας, ἵν’ ἀνδιχα τοῖο ἀνακτος
σφοῖσιν πορσύνωνται ἐφέστιοι ἐν μεγάροισιν.’

900

Ἦ, καὶ ἔβαιν’ ἐπὶ νῆα παροίτατος· ὥς δὲ καὶ
ἄλλοι

910

βαῖνον ἀριστῆες· λάζοντο δὲ χερσὶν ἐρετμὰ
ἐνσχερῶ ἐζόμενοι· πρυμνήσια δὲ σφίτιν Ἄργος
λύσεν ὑπὲκ πέτρης ἰλιμυρέος· ἐνθ’ ἄρα τοίγῃ

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

voice, praying the blessed gods to grant him a safe return. And so Hypsipyle too prayed, seizing the hands of Aeson's son, and her tears flowed for the loss of her lover :

“ Go, and may heaven bring thee back again with thy comrades unharmed, bearing to the king the golden fleece, even as thou wilt and thy heart desireth ; and this island and my father's sceptre will be awaiting thee, if on thy return hereafter thou shouldst choose to come hither again ; and easily couldst thou gather a countless host of men from other cities. But thou wilt not have this desire, nor do I myself forbode that so it will be. Still remember Hypsipyle when thou art far away and when thou has returned ; and leave me some word of bidding, which I will gladly accomplish, if haply heaven shall grant me to be a mother.”

And Aeson's son in admiration thus replied :
“ Hypsipyle, so may all these things prove propitious by the favour of the blessed gods. But do thou hold a nobler thought of me, since by the grace of Pelias it is enough for me to dwell in my native land ; may the gods only release me from my toils. But if it is not my destiny to sail afar and return to the land of Hellas, and if thou shouldst bear a male child, send him when grown up to Pelasgian Iolcus, to heal the grief of my father and mother if so be that he find them still living, in order that, far away from the king, they may be cared for by their own hearth in their home.”

He spake, and mounted the ship first of all ; and so the rest of the chiefs followed, and, sitting in order, seized the oars ; and Argus loosed for them the hawsers from under the sea-beaten rock. Where-

κόπτον ὕδωρ δολιχῆσιν ἐπικρατέως ἐλάτῃσιν.
 ἐσπέριοι δ' Ὀρφῆος ἐφημοσύνησιν ἔκελσαν
 νῆσον ἐς Ἡλέκτρης Ἀτλαντίδος, ὅφρα δαέντες
 ἀρρήτους ἀγανῆσι τελεσφορίῃσι θέμιστας
 σωότεροι κρύοεσσαν ὑπεῖρ ἄλα ναυτίλλοιντο.
 τῶν μὲν ἔτ' οὐ προτέρω μυθήσομαι· ἀλλὰ καὶ αὕτῃ
 νῆσος ὁμῶς κεχάροίτο καὶ οἱ λάχον ὄργια κεῖνα
 δαίμονες ἐνναέται, τὰ μὲν οὐ θέμις ἄμμιν ἀείδειν.

920

Κεῖθεν δ' εἰρεσίῃ Μέλανος διὰ βένθεα πόντου
 ἰέμενοι τῇ μὲν Θρηκῶν χθόνα, τῇ δὲ περαιῇν
 Ἰμβρον ἔχον καθύπερθε· νέον γε μὲν ἡελίοιο
 δυομένου Χερώνησον ἐπὶ προύχουσαν ἴκοντο.
 ἔνθα σφιν λαιψηρὸς ἄῃ νότος, ἰστία δ' οὖρῳ
 στησάμενοι κούρης Ἀθαμαντίδος αἰπὰ ρέεθρα
 εἰσέβαλον· πέλαγος δὲ τὸ μὲν καθύπερθε λέλειπτο
 ἦρι, τὸ δ' ἐννύχιοι Ῥοιτειάδος ἔνδοθεν ἀκτῆς
 μέτρεον, Ἰδαίην ἐπὶ δεξιὰ γαῖαν ἔχοντες.

930

Δαρδανίην δὲ λιπόντες ἐπιπροσέβαλλον Ἀβύδῳ.
 Περκώτην δ' ἐπὶ τῇ καὶ Ἀβαρνίδος ἡμαθόεσσαν
 ἡίονα ζαθέην τε παρήμειβον Πιτύειαν.
 καὶ δὴ τοίγ' ἐπὶ νυκτὶ διάνδιχα νηὸς ἰούσης
 δίνῃ πορφύροντα διήνυσαν Ἑλλήσποντον.

Ἔστι δέ τις αἰπεῖα Προποντίδος ἔνδοθι νῆσος
 τυτθὸν ἀπὸ Φρυγίης πολυληίου ἡπείριοιο
 εἰς ἄλα κεκλιμένη, ὅσσον τ' ἐπιμύρεται ἰσθμὸς
 χέρσῳ ἐπιπρηνῆς καταειμένος· ἐν δέ οἱ ἀκταὶ
 ἀμφίδυμοι, κεῖνται δ' ὑπὲρ ὕδατος Αἰσιήποιο·
 Ἀρκτων μιν καλέουσιν ὄρος περιναιετάοντες·

940

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

upon they mightily smote the water with their long oars, and in the evening by the injunctions of Orpheus they touched at the island of Electra,¹ daughter of Atlas, in order that by gentle initiation they might learn the rites that may not be uttered, and so with greater safety sail over the chilling sea. Of these I will make no further mention ; but I bid farewell to the island itself and the indwelling deities, to whom belong those mysteries, which it is not lawful for me to sing.

Thence did they row with eagerness over the depths of the Black Sea, having on the one side the land of the Thracians, on the other Imbros to the north ; and as the sun was just setting they reached the foreland of the Chersonesus. There a strong south wind blew for them ; and raising the sails to the breeze they entered the swift stream of the maiden daughter of Athamas ; and at dawn the sea to the north was left behind and at night they were coasting inside the Rhoeteian shore, with the land of Ida on their right. And leaving Dardania they directed their course to Abydus, and after it they sailed past Percote and the sandy beach of Abarnis and divine Pityeia. And in that night, as the ship sped on by sail and oar, they passed right through the Hellespont dark-gleaming with eddies.

There is a lofty island inside the Propontis, a short distance from the Phrygian mainland with its rich cornfields, sloping to the sea, where an isthmus in front of the mainland is flooded by the waves, so low does it lie. And the isthmus has double shores, and they lie beyond the river Aesepus, and the inhabitants round about call the island the Mount of Bears.

¹ Samothrace.

καὶ τὸ μὲν ὑβρισταί τε καὶ ἄγριοι ἐνναίουσιν
 Γηγενέες, μέγα θαῦμα περικτιόνεσσιν ἰδέσθαι·
 ἕξ γὰρ ἐκάστω χεῖρες ὑπέρβιοι ἠερέθονται,
 αἱ μὲν ἀπὸ στιβαρῶν ὤμων δύο, ταὶ δ' ὑπένερθεν
 τέσσαρες αἰνοτάτησιν ἐπὶ πλευρῆς ἀραρυῖαι.
 ἰσθμὸν δ' αὖ πεδίον τε Δολιόνας ἀμφενέμοντο
 ἀνέρες· ἐν δ' ἥρως Αἰνῆιος υἱὸς ἀνασσει
 Κύζικος, ὃν κούρη δίου τέκεν Εὐσώροιο
 Αἰνῆτη. τοὺς δ' οὔτι καὶ ἔκπαγλοί περ εἶντες 950
 Γηγενέες σίνοντο, Ποσειδάωνος ἀρωγῇ·
 τοῦ γὰρ ἔσαν τὰ πρῶτα Δολιόνας ἐκγεγαῶτες.
 ἔνθ' Ἀργῶ προύτυψεν ἐπειγομένη ἀνέμοισιν
 Θρηκίοις, Καλὸς δὲ λιμὴν ὑπέδεκτο θεοῦσαν.
 κέισε καὶ εὐναίης ὀλίγον λίθον ἐκλύσαντες
 Τίφυος ἐννεσίησιν ὑπὸ κρήνῃ ἐλίποντο,
 κρήνῃ ὑπ' Ἀρτακίῃ· ἕτερον δ' ἔλον, ὅστις ἀρήρει,
 βριθύν· ἀτὰρ κείνόν γε θεοπροπῆαις Ἐκάτοιο
 Νηλεΐδαι μετόπισθεν Ἰάονες ἰδρύσαντο
 ἱερόν, ἣ θέμις ἦεν, Ἰησονίης ἐν Ἀθήνης. 960
 Τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις φιλότῃτι Δολιόνας ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτὸς
 Κύζικος ἀντήσαντες ὅτε στόλον ἡδὲ γενέθλην
 ἔκλυον, οὔτινες εἶεν, ἐυξείνως ἀρέσαντο,
 καὶ σφεας εἰρεσίῃ πέπιθον προτέρωσε κίοντας
 ἄστεος ἐν λιμένι πρυμνήσια νηὸς ἀνάψαι.
 ἔνθ' οἷγ' Ἐκβασίῳ βωμὸν θέσαν Ἀπόλλωνι
 εἰσάμενοι παρὰ θίνα, θυηπολῆς τ' ἐμέλοντο.
 δῶκεν δ' αὐτὸς ἀναξ λαρὸν μέθυ δευομένοισιν
 μῆλ' αὖθ' ὁμοῦ· δὴ γάρ οἱ ἔην φάτις, εὖτ' ἂν ἴκωνται
 ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων θεῖος στόλος, αὐτίκα τόνγε 970
 μείλιχον ἀντιάαν, μηδὲ πτολέμοιο μέλεσθαι.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

And insolent and fierce men dwell there, Earthborn, a great marvel to the neighbours to behold ; for each one has six mighty hands to lift up, two from his sturdy shoulders, and four below, fitting close to his terrible sides. And about the isthmus and the plain the Doliones had their dwelling, and over them Cyzicus son of Aeneus was king, whom Aenete the daughter of goodly Eusorus bare. But these men the Earthborn monsters, fearful though they were, in nowise harried, owing to the protection of Poseidon ; for from him had the Doliones first sprung. Thither Argo pressed on, driven by the winds of Thrace, and the Fair haven received her as she sped. There they cast away their small anchor-stone by the advice of Tiphys and left it beneath a fountain, the fountain of Artacie ; and they took another meet for their purpose, a heavy one ; but the first, according to the oracle of the Far-Darter, the Ionians, sons of Neleus, in after days laid to be a sacred stone, as was right, in the temple of Jasonian Athena.

Now the Doliones and Cyzicus himself all came together to meet them with friendliness, and when they knew of the quest and their lineage welcomed them with hospitality, and persuaded them to row further and to fasten their ship's hawsers at the city harbour. Here they built an altar to Ecbasian¹ Apollo and set it up on the beach, and gave heed to sacrifices. And the king of his own bounty gave them sweet wine and sheep in their need ; for he had heard a report that whenever a godlike band of heroes should come, straightway he should meet it with gentle words and should have no thought of

¹ *i.e.* god of disembarcation.

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

ἴσόν που κἀκείνῳ ἐπισταχέσκον ἴουλοι,
οὐδέ νύ πω παίδεσσιν ἀγαλλόμενος μεμόρητο·
ἀλλ' ἔτι οἱ κατὰ δώματ' ἀκήρατος ἦεν ἄκοιτις
ὠδίνων, Μέροπος Περκωσίου ἐκγεγαυῖα,
Κλείτη εὐπλόκαμος, τὴν μὲν νέον ἐξέτι πατρὸς
θεσπεσίοις ἔδνοισιν ἀνήγαγεν ἀντιπέρηθεν.
ἀλλὰ καὶ ὥς θάλαμόν τε λιπὼν καὶ δέμνια νύμφης
τοῖς μέτα δαίτ' ἀλέγυνε, βάλεν δ' ἀπὸ δείματα
θυμοῦ.

ἀλλήλους δ' ἐρέεινον ἀμοιβαδῖς. ἦτοι ὁ μὲν σφρων 980
πεύθετο ναυτιλῆς ἄνυσιν, Πελίαό τ' ἐφετμάς·
οἱ δὲ περικτιόνων πόλιας καὶ κόλπον ἅπαντα
εὐρείης πεύθοντο Προποντίδος· οὐ μὲν ἐπιπρὸ
ἡίδει καταλέξαι ἐελδομένοισι δαῆναι.
ἦοι δ' εἰσανέβαν μέγα Δίνδυμον, ὄφρα καὶ αὐτοὶ
θηήσαιντο πόρους κείνης ἀλός· ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοίγε
νῆα Χυτὸν λιμένα¹ προτέρου ἐξήλασαν ὄρμον·
ἦδε δ' Ἰησονίη πέφαται ὁδός, ἥνπερ ἔβησαν.

Γηγενέες δ' ἐτέρωθεν ἀπ' οὐρεος αἰξάντες
φράξαν ἀπειρεσίοιο Χυτοῦ στόμα νειόθι πέτρης 990
πόντιον, οἷά τε θῆρα λοχώμενοι ἔνδον ἑόντα.
ἀλλὰ γὰρ αὖθι λέλειπτο σὺν ἀνδράσιν ὅπλο-
τέροισιν

Ἡρακλῆς, ὃς δὴ σφι παλίντονον αἶψα τανύσσας
τόξον, ἐπασσυτέρους πέλασε χθονί· τοὶ δὲ καὶ
αὐτοὶ

πέτρας ἀμφιρρῶγας ἀερτάζοντες ἔβαλλον.
δὴ γάρ που κἀκεῖνα θεὰ τρέφεν αἰνὰ πέλωρα
Ἥρη, Ζηνὸς ἄκοιτις, ἀέθλιον Ἡρακλῆι.
σὺν δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι δῆθεν ὑπότροποι ἀντιόωντες,
πρὶν περ ἀνελθόμεναι σκοπιήν, ἥπτοντο φόνοιο

¹ Χυτὸν λιμένα Merkel ; χυτοῦ λιμένος MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

war. As with Jason, the soft down was just blooming on his chin, nor yet had it been his lot to rejoice in children, but still in his palace his wife was untouched by the pangs of child-birth, the daughter of Percosian Merope, fair-haired Cleite, whom lately by priceless gifts he had brought from her father's home from the mainland opposite. But even so he left his chamber and bridal bed and prepared a banquet among the strangers, casting all fears from his heart. And they questioned one another in turn. Of them would he learn the end of their voyage and the injunctions of Pelias; while they enquired about the cities of the people round and all the gulf of the wide Propontis; but further he could not tell them for all their desire to learn. In the morning they climbed mighty Dindymum that they might themselves behold the various paths of that sea; and they brought their ship from its former anchorage to the harbour, Chytus; and the path they trod is named the path of Jason.

But the Earthborn men on the other side rushed down from the mountain and with crags below blocked up the mouth of vast Chytus towards the sea, like men lying in wait for a wild beast within. But there Heracles had been left behind with the younger heroes and he quickly bent his back-springing bow against the monsters and brought them to earth one after another; and they in their turn raised huge ragged rocks and hurled them. For these dread monsters too, I ween, the goddess Hera, bride of Zeus, had nurtured to be a trial for Heracles. And therewithal came the rest of the martial heroes returning to meet the foe before they reached the

Γηγενέων ἥρωες ἀρήιοι, ἡμὲν οἰστοῖς
 ἡδὲ καὶ ἐγχείησι δεδεγμένοι, εἰσόκε πάντας
 ἀντιβίην ἀσπερχὲς ὀρινομένους ἐδάϊξαν.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε δούρατα μακρὰ νέον πελέκεσσι τυπέντα
 ὑλοτόμοι στοιχηδὸν ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖνι βάλωσιν,
 ὄφρα νοτισθέντα κρατεροὺς ἀνεχοίατο γόμφους·
 ὥς οἱ ἐνὶ ξυνοχῇ λιμένος πολιοῖο τέταντο
 ἐξείης, ἄλλοι μὲν ἐς ἀλμυρὸν ἀθρόοι ὕδωρ
 δύπτοντες κεφαλὰς καὶ στήθεα, γυῖα δ' ὕπερθεν
 χέρσῳ τεινάμενοι· τοὶ δ' ἔμπαλιν, αἰγιαλοῖο
 κράατα μὲν ψαμάθοισι, πόδας δ' εἰς βένθος
 ἔρειδον,

ἄμφω ἅμ' οἶωνοῖσι καὶ ἰχθύσι κύρμα γενέσθαι.

Ἦρωες δ', ὅτε δὴ σφιν ἀταρβῆς ἔπλετ' ἄεθλος,
 δὴ τότε πείσματα νηὸς ἐπὶ πνοιῆς ἀνέμοιο
 λυσάμενοι προτέρωσε διέξ ἁλὸς οἶδμα νέοντο.
 ἢ δ' ἔθεεν λαίφεσσι πανήμερος· οὐ μὲν ἰούσης
 νυκτὸς ἔτι ῥιπὴ μένεν ἔμπεδον, ἀλλὰ θύελλαῖ
 ἀντίαι ἀρπάγδην ὀπίσω φέρον, ὄφρ' ἐπέλασσαν
 αὐτὶς ἐυξείνοισι Δολίοσιν. ἐκ δ' ἄρ' ἔβησαν
 αὐτοφυγί· Ἰερὴ δὲ φατίζεται ἡδ' ἔτι πέτρη,
 ἣ πέρι πείσματα νηὸς ἐπεσσύμενοι ἐβάλλοντο.
 οὐδέ τις αὐτὴν νῆσον ἐπιφραδέως ἐνόησεν
 ἔμμεναι· οὐδ' ὑπὸ νυκτὶ Δολιόνες ἀψ' ἀνιόντας
 ἥρωας νημερτὲς ἐπήισαν· ἀλλὰ πού ἀνδρῶν
 Μακριέων εἶσαντο Πελασγικὸν ἄρεα κέλσαι.
 τῷ καὶ τεύχεα δύντες ἐπὶ σφίσι χεῖρας ἄειραν.
 σὺν δ' ἔλασαν μελίας τε καὶ ἀσπίδας ἀλλήλοισιν
 ὀξεῖη ἴκελοι ῥιπῇ πυρός, ἢ τ' ἐνὶ θάμνοισι
 ἀναλέοισι πεσοῦσα κορύσσεται· ἐν δὲ κυδοιμὸς
 δεινὸς τε ζαμενῆς τε Δολιονίῳ πέσε δῆμῳ.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

height of outlook, and they fell to the slaughter of the Earthborn, receiving them with arrows and spears until they slew them all as they rushed fiercely to battle. And as when woodcutters cast in rows upon the beach long trees just hewn down by their axes, in order that, once sodden with brine, they may receive the strong bolts; so these monsters at the entrance of the foam-fringed harbour lay stretched one after another, some in heaps bending their heads and breasts into the salt waves with their limbs spread out above on the land; others again were resting their heads on the sand of the shore and their feet in the deep water, both alike a prey to birds and fishes at once.

But the heroes, when the contest was ended without fear, loosed the ship's hawsers to the breath of the wind and pressed on through the sea-swell. And the ship sped on under sail all day; but when night came the rushing wind did not hold steadfast, but contrary blasts caught them and held them back till they again approached the hospitable Doliones. And they stepped ashore that same night; and the rock is still called the Sacred Rock round which they threw the ship's hawsers in their haste. Nor did anyone note with care that it was the same island; nor in the night did the Doliones clearly perceive that the heroes were returning; but they deemed that Pelasgian war-men of the Macrians had landed. Therefore they donned their armour and raised their hands against them. And with clashing of ashen spears and shields they fell on each other, like the swift rush of fire which falls on dry brushwood and rears its crest; and the din of battle, terrible and furious, fell upon the people of the

οὐδ' ὄγε δημοτῆτος ὑπὲρ μόνον αὖτις ἔμελλεν
 οἴκαδε νυμφιδίους θαλάμους καὶ λέκτρον ἰκέσθαι.
 ἀλλὰ μιν Αἰσονίδης τετραμμένον ἰθὺς ἐοῖο
 πλῆξεν ἐπαΐξας στῆθος μέσον, ἀμφὶ δὲ δουρὶ
 ὀστέον ἐρραίσθη· ὁ δ' ἐνὶ ψαμάθοισιν ἔλυσθεις
 μοῖραν ἀνέπλησεν. τὴν γὰρ θέμις οὐποτ' ἀλύξαι
 θνητοῖσιν· πάντη δὲ περὶ μέγα πέπταται ἔρκος.
 ὥς τὸν οἰόμενόν που ἀδευκέος ἔκτοθεν ἄτης
 εἶναι ἀριστῶν αὐτῇ ὑπὸ νυκτὶ πέδησεν
 μαρνάμενον κείνοισι· πολεῖς δ' ἐπαρηγόνες ἄλλοι
 ἔκταθεν· Ἡρακλῆς μὲν ἐνήρατο Τηλεκλῆα
 ἡδὲ Μεγαβρόντην· Σφόδριν δ' ἐνάριξεν Ἄκαστος·
 Πηλεὺς δὲ Ζέλυν εἶλεν ἀρηιθόον τε Γέφυρον.
 αὐτὰρ ἐνυμμελὴς Τελαμῶν Βασιλῆα κατέκτα.
 Ἴδας δ' αὖ Προμέα, Κλυτίος δ' Ὑάκινθον ἔπεφνεν,
 Τυνδαρίδαι δ' ἄμφω Μεγαλοσσάκεα Φλογίον τε.
 Οἰνεΐδης δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἔλεν θρασὺν Ἴτυμονῆα
 ἡδὲ καὶ Ἀρτακέα, πρόμον ἀνδρῶν· οὓς ἔτι πάντας
 ἐνναέται τιμαῖς ἡρώσι κυδαίνουσιν.
 οἱ δ' ἄλλοι εἷξαντες ὑπέτρεσαν, ἥύτε κίρκους
 ὠκυπέτας ἀγέληδὸν ὑποτρέσσωσι πέλειαι.
 ἐς δὲ πύλας ὁμάδῳ πέσον ἀθρόοι· αἶψα δ' αὐτῆς
 πλῆτο πόλις στονόεντος ὑποτροπὴν πολέμοιο.
 ἡῶθεν δ' ὀλοὴν καὶ ἀμήχανον εἰσενόησαν
 ἀμπλακίην ἄμφω· στυγερὸν δ' ἄχος εἶλεν ἰδόντας
 ἥρωας Μινύας Αἰνῆιον νῖα πάροιθεν
 Κύζικον ἐν κονίησι καὶ αἵματι πεπτηῶτα.
 ἤματα δὲ τρία πάντα γόων, τίλλοντό τε χαίτας
 αὐτοὶ ὁμῶς λαοὶ τε Δολιόνες. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
 τρὶς περὶ χαλκείοις σὺν τεύχεσι δινηθέντες
 τύμβῳ ἐνεκτερέϊξαν, ἐπειρήσαντό τ' ἀέθλων,
 ἢ θέμις, ἂμ πεδίον λειμώνιον, ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

Doliones. Nor was the king to escape his fate and return home from battle to his bridal chamber and bed. But Aeson's son leapt upon him as he turned to face him, and smote him in the middle of the breast, and the bone was shattered round the spear; he rolled forward in the sand and filled up the measure of his fate. For that no mortal may escape; but on every side a wide snare encompasses us. And so, when he thought that he had escaped bitter death from the chiefs, fate entangled him that very night in her toils while battling with them; and many champions withal were slain; Heracles killed Telecles and Megabrontes, and Acastus slew Sphodris; and Peleus slew Zelus and Gephyrus swift in war. Telamon of the strong spear slew Basileus. And Idas slew Promeus, and Clytius Hyacinthus, and the two sons of Tyndareus slew Megalossaces and Phlogius. And after them the son of Oeneus slew bold Itomeneus, and Artaceus, leader of men; all of whom the inhabitants still honour with the worship due to heroes. And the rest gave way and fled in terror just as doves fly in terror before swift-winged hawks. And with a din they rushed in a body to the gates; and quickly the city was filled with loud cries at the turning of the dolorous fight. But at dawn both sides perceived the fatal and cureless error; and bitter grief seized the Minyan heroes when they saw before them Cyzicus son of Aeneus fallen in the midst of dust and blood. And for three whole days they lamented and rent their hair, they and the Doliones. Then three times round his tomb they paced in armour of bronze and performed funeral rites and celebrated games, as was meet, upon the meadow-plain, where even now rises the

ἀγκέχυνται τόδε σῆμα καὶ ὄψιγόνοισιν ἰδέσθαι.
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἄλοχος Κλείτη φθιμένοιο λέλειπτο
 οὐ πόσιος μετόπισθε· κακῶ δ' ἐπὶ κύντερον ἄλλο
 ἦνυσεν, ἀφαμένη βρόχον αὐχένι. τὴν δὲ καὶ αὐταὶ
 νύμφαι ἀποφθιμένην ἄλσηίδες ὠδύραντο·
 καὶ οἱ ἀπὸ βλεφάρων ὅσα δάκρυα χεῦαν ἔραζε,
 πάντα τάγε κρήνην τεύξαν θεαί, ἣν καλέουσιν
 Κλείτην, δυστήνοιο περικλεές οὔνομα νύμφης.
 αἰνότατον δὴ κεῖνο Δολιονίησι γυναιξὶν
 ἀνδράσι τ' ἐκ Διὸς ἡμαρ ἐπήλυθεν· οὐδὲ γὰρ αὐτῶν
 ἔτλη τις πάσσασθαι ἐδητύος, οὐδ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν
 ἐξ ἀχέων ἔργοιο μυληφάτου ἐμνώοντο·
 ἀλλ' αὐτῶς ἀφλεκτα διαζώεσκον ἔδοντες.
 ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν, εὖτ' ἂν σφιν ἐτήσια χύτλα χέωνται
 Κύζικον ἐνναίοντες Ἰάονες, ἔμπεδον αἰεὶ
 πανδήμοιο μύλης πελάνους ἐπαλετρεύουσιν.
 Ἐκ δὲ τότεν τρηχεῖαι ἀνῆρθησαν ἄελλαι
 ἡμαθ' ὁμοῦ νύκτας τε δωδέκα, τοὺς δὲ καταῦθι
 ναυτίλλεσθαι ἔρυκον. ἐπιπλομένη δ' ἐνὶ νυκτὶ
 ὦλλοι μὲν ῥα πάρος δεδμημένοι εὐνάζοντο
 ὕπνω ἀριστῆες πύματον λάχος· αὐτὰρ Ἀκαστος
 Μόψος τ' Ἀμπυκίδης ἀδινὰ κνώσσοντας ἔρυντο.
 ἡ δ' ἄρ' ὑπὲρ ξανθοῖο καρήατος Αἰσονίδαο
 πωτὰτ' ἀλκονοῖς λιγυρῇ ὅπῃ θεσπίζουσα
 λῆξιν ὀρινομένων ἀνέμων· συνέηκε δὲ Μόψος
 ἀκταίης ὄρνιθος ἐναΐσιμον ὅσσαν ἀκούσας.
 καὶ τὴν μὲν θεὸς αὐτὶς ἀπέτραπεν, ἵξε δ' ὕπερθεν
 νηίου ἀφλάστοιο μετήορος αἶξασα.
 τὸν δ' ὄγε κεκλιμένον μαλακοῖς ἐνὶ κώεσιν οἴῳ
 κινήσας ἀνέγειρε παρασχεδόν, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·

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THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

mound of his grave to be seen by men of a later day. No, nor was his bride Cleite left behind her dead husband, but to crown the ill she wrought an ill yet more awful, when she clasped a noose round her neck. Her death even the nymphs of the grove bewailed; and of all the tears for her that they shed to earth from their eyes the goddesses made a fountain, which they call Cleite,¹ the illustrious name of the hapless maid. Most terrible came that day from Zeus upon the Doliones, women and men; for no one of them dared even to taste food, nor for a long time by reason of grief did they take thought for the toil of the cornmill, but they dragged on their lives eating their food as it was, untouched by fire. Here even now, when the Ionians that dwell in Cyzicus pour their yearly libations for the dead, they ever grind the meal for the sacrificial cakes at the common mill.²

After this, fierce tempests arose for twelve days and nights together and kept them there from sailing. But in the next night the rest of the chieftains, overcome by sleep, were resting during the latest period of the night, while Acastus and Mopsus the son of Ampycus kept guard over their deep slumbers. And above the golden head of Aeson's son there hovered a halcyon prophesying with shrill voice the ceasing of the stormy winds; and Mopsus heard and understood the cry of the bird of the shore, fraught with good omen. And some god made it turn aside, and flying aloft it settled upon the stern-ornament of the ship. And the seer touched Jason as he lay wrapped in soft sheepskins and woke him at once, and thus spake:

¹ Cleite means illustrious.
i.e. to avoid grinding it at home.

‘Αἰσονίδη, χρειώ σε τόδ’ ἱερὸν εἰσανιόντα
 Δινδύμον ὀκρίεντος ἑύθρονον ἰλάξασθαι
 μητέρα συμπάντων μακάρων· λήξουσι δ’ ἄελλαι
 ζαχρηεῖς· τοίην γὰρ ἐγὼ νέον ὅσσαν ἄκουσα
 ἀλκυνόνοσ ἀλῆης, ἥ τε κνώσσοντος ὑπερθεν
 σείο περίξ τὰ ἕκαστα πιφανσκομένη πεπότῃται.
 ἐκ γὰρ τῆς ἄνεμοί τε θάλασσά τε νειόθι τε χθών
 πᾶσα πεπεύρανται¹ νιφόεν θ’ ἔδος Οὐλύμποιο·
 καὶ οἱ, ὅτ’ ἐξ ὀρέων μέγαν οὐρανὸν εἰσαναβαίνειν,
 Ζεὺς αὐτὸς Κρονίδης ὑποχάζεται. ὥς δὲ καὶ ὅλλοι
 ἀθάνατοι μάκαρες δεινὴν θεὸν ἀμφιέπουσιν.’

1100

᾽Ως φάτο· τῷ δ’ ἀσπαστὸν ἔπος γένετ’ εἰσαίοντι.
 ὦρνυτο δ’ ἐξ εὐνῆς κεχαρημένος· ὦρσε δ’ ἑταίρους
 πάντας ἐπισπέρχων, καὶ τέ σφισιν ἐγρομένοισιν
 Ἄμπυκίδεω Μόψοιο θεοπροπίας ἀγόρευεν.
 αἶψα δὲ κουρότεροι μὲν ἀπὸ σταθμῶν ἐλάσαντες
 ἔνθεν ἐς αἰπεινὴν ἀναγον βόας οὖρεος ἄκρην.
 οἱ δ’ ἄρα λυσάμενοι Ἰερῆς ἐκ πείσματα πέτρης
 ἤρεσαν ἐς λιμένα Θρηίκιον· ἂν δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 βαῖνον, πανροτέρους ἐτάρων ἐν νηὶ λιπόντες.
 τοῖσι δὲ Μακριάδες σκοπιαὶ καὶ πᾶσα περαίη
 Θρηικίης ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐαῖς προυφαίνεται ἰδέσθαι·
 φαίνεται δ’ ἡρόεν στόμα Βοσπόρου ἡδὲ κολῶναι
 Μυσίαί· ἐκ δ’ ἐτέρης ποταμοῦ ῥόος Αἰσιήποιο
 ἄστν τε καὶ πεδίον Νηπήιον Ἀδρηστείης.
 ἔσκε δέ τι στιβαρὸν στύπος ἀμπέλου ἔντροφον ὕλην,
 πρόχυν γεράνδρυν· τὸ μὲν ἕκταμον, ὅφρα πέλοιτο
 δαίμονος οὐρείης ἱερὸν βρέτας· ἔξεσε δ’ Ἄργος
 εὐκόσμως, καὶ δὴ μιν ἐπ’ ὀκρίεντι κολωνῷ
 ἵδρυσαν φηγοῖσιν ἐπηρεφὲς ἀκροτάτῃσιν
 αἶ ῥά τε πασάων πανυπέρταται ἐρρίζωνται.

1110

1120

¹ πεπεύρανται Köchly : πεπεύρηται MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

“Son of Aeson, thou must climb to this temple on rugged Dindymum and propitiate the mother¹ of all the blessed gods on her fair throne, and the stormy blasts shall cease. For such was the voice I heard but now from the halcyon, bird of the sea, which, as as it flew above thee in thy slumber, told me all. For by her power the winds and the sea and all the earth below and the snowy seat of Olympus are complete; and to her, when from the mountains she ascends the mighty heaven, Zeus himself, the son of Cronos, gives place. In like manner the rest of the immortal blessed ones reverence the dread goddess.”

Thus he spake, and his words were welcome to Jason's ear. And he arose from his bed with joy and woke all his comrades hurriedly and told them the prophecy of Mopsus the son of Ampycus. And quickly the younger men drove oxen from their stalls and began to lead them to the mountain's lofty summit. And they loosed the hawsers from the sacred rock and rowed to the Thracian harbour; and the heroes climbed the mountain, leaving a few of their comrades in the ship. And to them the Macrian heights and all the coast of Thrace opposite appeared to view close at hand. And there appeared the misty mouth of Bosporus and the Mysian hills; and on the other side the stream of the river Aesepus and the city and Nepeian plain of Adrasteia. Now there was a sturdy stump of vine that grew in the forest, a tree exceeding old; this they cut down, to be the sacred image of the mountain goddess; and Argos smoothed it skilfully, and they set it upon that rugged hill beneath a canopy of lofty oaks, which of all trees have their roots deepest. And near it they

¹ Rhea.

βωμὸν δ' αὖ χέραδος παρενήνεον· ἀμφὶ δὲ φύλλοις
 στεψάμενοι δρυῖνοισι θνηπολὴς ἐμέλοντο,
 Μητέρα Δινδυμῖν πολυπότνιαν ἀγκαλέοντες,
 ἐνναέτιν Φρυγίης, Τιτίην θ' ἅμα Κύλληνόν τε,
 οἳ μούνοι πολέων μοιρηγέται ἡδὲ πάρεδροι
 Μητέρος Ἰδαίης κεκλήσεται, ὅσσοι ἔασιν
 Δάκτυλοι Ἰδαῖοι Κρηταιέες, οὓς ποτε νύμφη
 Ἀγχιάλῃ Δικταῖον ἀνὰ σπέος ἀμφοτέρησιν
 δραξαμένη γαίης Οἰαξίδος ἐβλάστησεν.
 πολλὰ δὲ τήνγε λιτῇσιν ἀποστρέψαι ἐριώλας
 Αἰσονίδης γουνάζετ' ἐπιλλείβων ἱεροῖσιν
 αἰθομένοις· ἄμυδις δὲ νέοι Ὀρφῆος ἀνωγῇ
 σκαίροντες βηταρμὸν ἐνόπλιον ὠρχήσαντο,
 καὶ σάκεα ξιφέεσσιν ἐπέκτυπον, ὥς κεν ἰωὴ
 δύσφημος πλάζοιτο δι' ἡέρος, ἣν ἔτι λαοὶ
 κηδείῃ βασιλῆος ἀνέστενον. ἔνθεν ἔσαιεὶ
 ῥόμβῳ καὶ τυπάνῳ Ῥεῖν Φρύγες ἰλάσκονται
 ἢ δέ που εὐαγέεσσιν ἐπὶ φρένα θῆκε θνηλαῖς
 ἀνταίῃ δαίμων· τὰ δ' εἰκότα σήματ' ἔγεντο.
 δένδρεα μὲν καρπὸν χέον ἄσπετον, ἀμφὶ δὲ ποσσὶν
 αὐτομάτῃ φύε γαῖα τερείνης ἄνθεα ποίης.
 θῆρες δ' εἰλυοὺς τε κατὰ ξυλόχους τε λιπόντες
 οὐρῇσιν σαίνοντες ἐπήλυθον. ἢ δὲ καὶ ἄλλο
 θῆκε τέρας· ἐπεὶ οὔτι παροίτερον ὕδατι νᾶεν
 Δίνδυμον· ἀλλὰ σφιν τότ' ἀνέβραχε διψάδος
 αὐτως
 ἐκ κορυφῆς ἄλληκτον. Ἰησονίην δ' ἐνέπουσιν
 κεῖνο ποτὸν κρήνην περιναίεται ἄνδρες ὀπίσσω.
 καὶ τότε μὲν δαῖτ' ἀμφὶ θεᾶς θέσαν οὔρεσιν
 Ἀρκτων,
 μέλποντες Ῥεῖν πολυπότνιαν· αὐτὰρ ἐς ἣν
 ληξάντων ἀνέμων νῆσον λίπον εἰρεσίῃσιν.

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THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

heaped an altar of small stones, and wreathed their brows with oak leaves and paid heed to sacrifice, invoking the mother of Dindymum, most venerable, dweller in Phrygia, and Titias and Cyllenus, who alone of many are called dispensers of doom and assessors of the Idaean mother,—the Idaean Dactyls of Crete, whom once the nymph Anchiale, as she grasped with both hands the land of Oaxus, bare in the Dictæan cave. And with many prayers did Aeson's son beseech the goddess to turn aside the stormy blasts as he poured libations on the blazing sacrifice; and at the same time by command of Orpheus the youths trod a measure dancing in full armour, and clashed with their swords on their shields, so that the ill-omened cry might be lost in the air—the wail which the people were still sending up in grief for their king. Hence from that time forward the Phrygians propitiate Rhea with the wheel and the drum. And the gracious goddess, I ween, inclined her heart to pious sacrifices; and favourable signs appeared. The trees shed abundant fruit, and round their feet the earth of its own accord put forth flowers from the tender grass. And the beasts of the wild wood left their lairs and thickets and came up fawning on them with their tails. And she caused yet another marvel; for hitherto there was no flow of water on Dindymum, but then for them an unceasing stream gushed forth from the thirsty peak just as it was, and the dwellers around in after times called that stream, the spring of Jason. And then they made a feast in honour of the goddess on the Mount of Bears, singing the praises of Rhea most venerable; but at dawn the winds had ceased and they rowed away from the island.

Ἐνθ' ἔρις ἄνδρα ἕκαστον ἀριστῶν ὀρόθυνεν,
 ὅστις ἀπολλήξειε πανύστατος. ἀμφὶ γὰρ αἰθὴρ
 νῆεμος ἐστόρεσεν δῖνας, κατὰ δ' εὐνάσε πόντον.
 οἱ δὲ γαληναῖη πίσυνοι ἐλάασκον ἐπιπρὸ
 νῆα βίη· τὴν δ' οὐ κε διέξ' ἄλως αἴσσουσαν
 οὐδὲ Ποσειδάωνος ἀελλόποδες κίχον ἵπποι.
 ἔμπης δ' ἐγρομένοιο σάλου ζαχρηέσιν αὔραις,
 αἱ νέον ἐκ ποταμῶν ὑπὸ δαίελον ἠερέθονται,
 1160 τειρόμενοι καὶ δὴ μετελώφεον· αὐτὰρ ὁ τούσγε
 πασσυδίῃ μογέοντας ἐφέλκετο κάρτεϊ χειρῶν
 Ἡρακλῆς, ἐτίνασσε δ' ἀρηρότα δούρατα νηός.
 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ Μυσῶν λεληημένοι ἠπείροιο
 Ῥυνδακίδας προχοὰς μέγα τ' ἠρίον Αἰγαίῳ
 τυτθὸν ὑπέκ Φρυγίης παρεμέτρεον εἰσορόωντες,
 δὴ τότε' ἀνοχλίζων τετρηχότος οἴδματος ὅλκους
 μεσσύθεν ἄξεν ἐρετμόν· ἀτὰρ τρύφος ἄλλο μὲν
 αὐτὸς

ἄμφω χερσὶν ἔχων πέσε δόχμιος, ἄλλο δὲ πόντος
 κλύζε παλιρροθίοισι φέρων. ἀνὰ δ' ἔξετο σιγῇ
 1170 παπταίνων· χεῖρες γὰρ ἀήθεον ἠρεμέουσai.

Ἦμος δ' ἀγρόθεν εἷσι φυτοσκάφος ἢ τις ἀροτρεὺς
 ἀσπασίως εἰς αὐλιν εἴην, δόρποιο χατίζων,
 αὐτοῦ δ' ἐν προμολῇ τετρυμένα γούνατ' ἔκαμψεν
 αὐσταλέος κονίησι, περιτριβέας δέ τε χεῖρας
 εἰσορόων κακὰ πολλὰ ἐῖν ἠρήσατο γαστρί·
 τῆμος ἄρ' οἷγ' ἀφίκοντο Κιανίδος ἠθεα γαίης
 ἀμφ' Ἀργανθώνειον ὄρος προχοάς τε Κίοιο.
 τοὺς μὲν εὐξείνως Μυσοὶ φιλότῃτι κιόντας
 1180 δειδέχατ', ἐνναέται κείνης χθονός, ἥιά τέ σφιν
 μῆλ' αὖτε δευομένοις μέθυ τ' ἄσπετον ἐγγυάλιξαν.
 ἔνθα δ' ἔπειθ' οἱ μὲν ξύλα κάγκανα, τοὶ δὲ
 λεχαίην

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

Thereupon a spirit of contention stirred each chieftain, who should be the last to leave his oar. For all around the windless air smoothed the swirling waves and lulled the sea to rest. And they, trusting in the calm, mightily drove the ship forward; and as she sped through the salt sea, not even the storm-footed steeds of Poseidon would have overtaken her. Nevertheless when the sea was stirred by violent blasts which were just rising from the rivers about evening, forspent with toil, they ceased. But Heracles by the might of his arms pulled the weary rowers along all together, and made the strong-knit timbers of the ship to quiver. But when, eager to reach the Mysian mainland, they passed along in sight of the mouth of Rhyndacus and the great cairn of Aegaeon, a little way from Phrygia, then Heracles, as he ploughed up the furrows of the roughened surge, broke his oar in the middle. And one half he held in both his hands as he fell sideways, the other the sea swept away with its receding wave. And he sat up in silence glaring round; for his hands were unaccustomed to lie idle.

Now at the hour when from the field some delver or ploughman goes gladly home to his hut, longing for his evening meal, and there on the threshold, all squalid with dust, bows his wearied knees, and, beholding his hands worn with toil, with many a curse reviles his belly; at that hour the heroes reached the homes of the Cician land near the Arganthonian mount and the outfall of Cius. Them as they came in friendliness, the Mysians, inhabitants of that land, hospitably welcomed, and gave them in their need provisions and sheep and abundant wine. Hereupon some brought dried wood, others from the

φυλλάδα λειμώνων φέρον ἄσπετον ἀμήσαντες,
στόρνυσθαι· τοὶ δ' ἀμφὶ πυρήια δινεύεσκον·
οἱ δ' οἶνον κρητῆρσι κέρων, πονέοντό τε δαῖτα,
Ἐκβασίῳ ῥέξαντες ὑπὸ κνέφας Ἀπόλλωνι.

Αὐτὰρ ὁ δαῖτ' αἴνυσθαι ἐταίροις¹ εὖ ἐπιτείλας
βῆ ῥ' ἵμεν εἰς ὕλην νιὸς Διός, ὥς κεν ἐρετμὸν
οἱ αὐτῷ φθαίῃ καταχείριον ἐντύνασθαι.
εὗρεν ἔπειτ' ἐλάτην ἀλαλήμενος, οὔτε τι πολλοῖς 1190
ἀχθομένην ὄζοις, οὐδὲ μέγα τηλεθώσαν,
ἀλλ' οἶον ταναῆς ἔρνος πέλει αἰγείριοιο·
τόσση ὁμῶς μῆκός τε καὶ ἐς πάχος ἦεν ιδέσθαι.
ρίμφα δ' οἰστοδόκην μὲν ἐπὶ χθονὶ θῆκε φαρέτρην
αὐτοῖσιν τόξοισιν, ἔδν δ' ἀπὸ δέρμα λέοντος.
τὴν δ' ὄγε χαλκοβαρεῖ ῥοπάλῳ δαπέδοιο τινάξας
νειόθεν ἀμφοτέρησι περὶ στύπος ἔλλαβε χερσίν,
ἡγορέῃ πίσυνος· ἐν δὲ πλατὺν ὦμον ἔρεισεν
εὖ διαβάς· πεδόθεν δὲ βαθύρριζόν περ ἐοῦσαν
προσφὺς ἐξήειρε σὺν αὐτοῖς ἔχμασι γαίης. 1200
ὥς δ' ὅταν ἀπροφάτως ἰστὸν νεός, εὖτε μάλιστα
χειμερίῃ ὀλοοῖο δύσις πέλει Ὀρίωνος,
ὑψόθεν ἐμπλήξασα θοὴ ἀνέμοιο κατὰίξ
αὐτοῖσι σφήνεσσιν ὑπέκ προτόνων ἐρύσσηται·
ὥς ὄγε τὴν ἤειρεν. ὁμοῦ δ' ἀνὰ τόξα καὶ ἰοὺς
δέρμα θ' ἐλὼν ῥόπαλόν τε παλίσσυτος ὦρτο
νέεσθαι.

Τόφρα δ' Ὀτλας χαλκῆν σὺν κάλπιδι νόσφιν
ὁμίλου

δίξητο κρήνης ἱερὸν ῥόον, ὥς κέ οἱ ὕδωρ
φθαίῃ ἀφυσσάμενος ποτιδόρπιον, ἄλλα τε πάντα
ὀτραλέως κατὰ κόσμον ἐπαρτίσσειεν ἰόντι. 1210

¹ δαῖτ' αἴνυσθαι ἐταίροις O. Schneider: δαίνυσθαι ἐτάροις L :
δαίνυσθαι ἐτάροισιν G : δαίνυσθαι ἐτάροις οἷς one Parisian.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

meadows leaves for beds which they gathered in abundance for strewing, whilst others were twirling sticks to get fire ; others again were mixing wine in the bowl and making ready the feast, after sacrificing at nightfall to Apollo Ecbasius.

But the son of Zeus having duly enjoined on his comrades to prepare the feast took his way into a wood, that he might first fashion for himself an oar to fit his hand. Wandering about he found a pine not burdened with many branches, nor too full of leaves, but like to the shaft of a tall poplar ; so great was it both in length and thickness to look at. And quickly he laid on the ground his arrow-holding quiver together with his bow, and took off his lion's skin. And he loosened the pine from the ground with his bronze-tipped club and grasped the trunk with both hands at the bottom, relying on his strength ; and he pressed it against his broad shoulder with legs wide apart ; and clinging close he raised it from the ground deep-rooted though it was, together with clods of earth. And as when unexpectedly, just at the time of the stormy setting of baleful Orion, a swift gust of wind strikes down from above, and wrenches a ship's mast from its stays, wedges and all ; so did Heracles lift the pine. And at the same time he took up his bow and arrows, his lion skin and club, and started on his return.

Meantime Hylas with pitcher of bronze in hand had gone apart from the throng, seeking the sacred flow of a fountain, that he might be quick in drawing water for the evening meal and actively make all things ready in due order against his lord's

δὴ γάρ μιν τοίοισιν ἐν ἥθεσιν αὐτὸς ἔφερβεν,
 νηπίαχον τὰ πρῶτα δόμων ἐκ πατρὸς ἀπούρας,
 δίου Θειοδάμαντος, ὃν ἐν Δρυόπεσσι ἐπεφνευ
 νηλειῶς, βοὸς ἀμφὶ γεωμόρου ἀντιόωντα.
 ἦτοι ὁ μὲν νειοῖο γύας τέμνεσκεν ἀρότρῳ
 Θειοδάμας ἄτη¹ βεβολημένος· αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε
 βοῦν ἀρότρῳ ἥνωγε παρασχέμεν οὐκ ἐθέλοντα.
 ἴετο γὰρ πρόφασιν πολέμου Δρυόπεσσι βαλέσθαι
 λευγαλέην, ἐπεὶ οὔτι δίκης ἀλέγοντες ἔναιον.
 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν τηλοῦ κεν ἀποπλάγξειεν αἰοιδῆς. 1220
 αἶψα δ' ὄγε κρήνην μετεκίαθεν, ἣν καλέουσιν
 Πηγὰς ἀγχίγνοι περιναίεται. οἱ δέ που ἄρτι
 νυμφάων ἴσταντο χοροί· μέλε γάρ σφισι πάσαις,
 ὅσσαι κεῖσ' ἐρατὸν νύμφαι ρίον ἀμφενέμοντο,
 Ἄρτεμιν ἐννυχίῃσιν αἰεὶ μέλπεσθαι αἰοδαῖς.
 αἰ μὲν, ὅσαι σκοπιάς ὀρέων λάχον ἢ καὶ ἐναύλους,
 αἶγε μὲν ὕληωροὶ ἀπόπροθεν ἐστιχώωντο,
 ἢ δὲ νέον κρήνης ἀνεδύετο καλλιναόιο
 νύμφῃ ἐφυδατίῃ· τὸν δὲ σχεδὸν εἰσενόησεν
 κάλλει καὶ γλυκερῇσιν ἐρευθόμενον χαρίτεσσιν. 1230
 πρὸς γάρ οἱ διχόμηνις ἀπ' αἰθέρος αὐγάζουσα
 βάλλε σεληναίῃ. τὴν δὲ φρένας ἐπτοίησεν
 Κύπρις, ἀμηχανίῃ δὲ μόλις συναγείρατο θυμόν.
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ὥς τὰ πρῶτα ῥόω ἐνὶ κάλπιν ἔρεισεν
 λέχρις ἐπιχριμφθεῖς, περὶ δ' ἄσπετον ἔβραχεν
 ὕδωρ
 χαλκὸν ἐς ἡχήμεντα φορεύμενον, αὐτίκα δ' ἦγε
 λαιὸν μὲν καθύπερθεν ἐπ' αὐχένος ἄνθετο πῆχυν
 κύσσαι ἐπιθύουσα τέρεν στόμα· δεξιτερῇ δὲ
 ἀγκῶν' ἔσπασε χειρί, μέσῃ δ' ἐνικάββαλε δίνη.

¹ ἄτη Merkel : ἀνίη MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

return. For in such ways did Heracles nurture him from his first childhood when he had carried him off from the house of his father, goodly Theiodamas, whom the hero pitilessly slew among the Dryopians because he withstood him about an ox for the plough. Theiodamas was cleaving with his plough the soil of fallow land when he was smitten with the curse ; and Heracles bade him give up the ploughing ox against his will. For he desired to find some pretext for war against the Dryopians for their bane, since they dwelt there reckless of right. But these tales would lead me far astray from my song. And quickly Hylas came to the spring which the people who dwell thereabouts call Pegae. And the dances of the nymphs were just now being held there ; for it was the care of all the nymphs that haunted that lovely headland ever to hymn Artemis in songs by night. All who held the mountain peaks or glens, all they were ranged far off guarding the woods ; but one, a water-nymph was just rising from the fair-flowing spring ; and the boy she perceived close at hand with the rosy flush of his beauty and sweet grace. For the full moon beaming from the sky smote him. And Cypris made her heart faint, and in her confusion she could scarcely gather her spirit back to her. But as soon as he dipped the pitcher in the stream, leaning to one side, and the brimming water rang loud as it poured against the sounding bronze, straightway she laid her left arm above upon his neck yearning to kiss his tender mouth ; and with her right hand she drew down his elbow, and plunged him into the midst of the eddy.

Τοῦ δ' ἥρως ἰάχοντος ἐπέκλυεν οἶος ἑταίρων 1240
 Εἰλατίδης Πολύφημος, ἰὼν προτέρωσε κελεύθου,
 δέκτο γὰρ Ἡρακλῆα πελώριον, ὀππὸθ' ἵκοιτο.
 βῆ δὲ μεταίξας Πηγέων σχεδόν, ἥντε τις θῆρ
 ἄγριος, ὃν ῥά τε γῆρυς ἀπόπροθεν ἵκετο μήλων,
 λιμῶ δ' αἰθόμενος μετανίσσεται, οὐδ' ἐπέκυρσεν
 ποίμνησιν· πρὸ γὰρ αὐτοῖ ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσι νομῆς
 ἔλσαν· ὁ δὲ στενάχων βρέμει ἄσπετον, ὄφρα
 κάμῃσιν·

ὥς τὸτ' ἄρ' Εἰλατίδης μεγάλ' ἔστενεν, ἀμφὶ δὲ 1250
 χῶρον
 φοῖτα κεκληγῶς· μελέῃ δέ οἱ ἔπλετο φωνή.
 αἶψα δ' ἐρυσσάμενος μέγα φάσγανον ὦρτο δίεσθαι,
 μήπως ἢ θήρεσσιν ἔλωρ πέλοι, ἥέ μιν ἄνδρες
 μῶνον ἐόντ' ἐλόχησαν, ἄγουσι δὲ ληίδ' ἐτοίμην.
 ἔνθ' αὐτῷ ξύμβλητο κατὰ στίβον Ἡρακλῆι
 γυμνὸν ἐπαῖσσων παλάμη ξίφος· εὐ δέ μιν ἔγνω
 σπερχόμενον μετὰ νῆα διὰ κνέφας. αὐτίκα δ'
 ἄτην

ἔκφατο λευγαλέην, βεβαρημένος ἄσθματι θυμόν·
 'Δαιμόνιε, στυγερόν τοι ἄχος πάμπρωτος ἐνίψω.
 οὐ γὰρ Ὕλας κρήνηνδε κιὼν σόος αὐτὶς ἰκάνει.
 ἀλλὰ ἐ ληιστῆρες ἐνιχρίμψαντες ἄγουσιν,
 ἢ θῆρες σίνονται· ἐγὼ δ' ἰάχοντος ἄκουσα.' 1260

ὣς φάτο· τῷ δ' αἰόντι κατὰ κροτάφων ἄλῃς
 ἰδρῶς
 κήκλειν, ἐν δὲ κελαινὸν ὑπὸ σπλάγχνοις ζέεν
 αἶμα.

χωόμενος δ' ἐλάτην χαμάδις βάλεν, ἐς δὲ κέλευθον
 τὴν θέεν, ἣ πόδες αὐτὸν ὑπέκφερον αἰσسونτα.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τίς τε μύωπι τετυμμένος ἔσσυτο ταῦρος
 πίσεά τε προλιπὼν καὶ ἐλεσπίδας, οὐδὲ νομῶν,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

Alone of his comrades the hero Polyphemus, son of Eilatus, as he went forward on the path, heard the boy's cry, for he expected the return of mighty Heracles. And he rushed after the cry, near Pegae, like some beast of the wild wood whom the bleating of sheep has reached from afar, and burning with hunger he follows, but does not fall in with the flocks; for the shepherds beforehand have penned them in the fold, but he groans and roars vehemently until he is weary. Thus vehemently at that time did the son of Eilatus groan and wandered shouting round the spot; and his voice rang piteous. Then quickly drawing his great sword he started in pursuit, in fear lest the boy should be the prey of wild beasts, or men should have lain in ambush for him faring all alone, and be carrying him off, an easy prey. Hereupon as he brandished his bare sword in his hand he met Heracles himself on the path, and well he knew him as he hastened to the ship through the darkness. And straightway he told the wretched calamity while his heart laboured with his panting breath.

“My poor friend, I shall be the first to bring thee tidings of bitter woe. Hylas has gone to the well and has not returned safe, but robbers have attacked and are carrying him off, or beasts are tearing him to pieces; I heard his cry.”

Thus he spake; and when Heracles heard his words, sweat in abundance poured down from his temples and the black blood boiled beneath his heart. And in wrath he hurled the pine to the ground and hurried along the path whither his feet bore on his impetuous soul. And as when a bull stung by a gadfly tears along, leaving the meadows

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

οὐδ' ἀγέλης ὄθεται, πρήσσει δ' ὁδόν, ἄλλοτ'
 ἄπανστος,
 ἄλλοτε δ' ἰστάμενος, καὶ ἀνὰ πλατὺν αὐχέν'
 αἰείρων

ἴησιν μύκημα, κακῶ βεβολημένος οἴστρω·
 ὥς ὄγε μαιμώνων ὅτε μὲν θοὰ γούνατ' ἔπαλλεν
 συνεχέως, ὅτε δ' αὖτε μεταλλήγων καμάτοιο
 τῆλε διαπρύσιον μεγάλη βοόασκεν αὐτῇ.

1270

Αὐτίκα δ' ἀκροτάτας ὑπερέσχεθεν ἄκριας ἀστήρ
 ἠῶος, πνοιαί δὲ κατήλυθον· ὦκα δὲ Τίφυς
 ἐσβαίνειν ὀρόθυνεν, ἐπαύρεσθαί τ' ἀνέμοιο.
 οἱ δ' εἴσβαινον ἄφαρ λελημένοι· ὕψι δὲ νηὸς
 εὐναίας ἐρύσαντες ἀνεκρούσαντο κάλῳας.
 κυρτώθη δ' ἀνέμῳ λῖνα μεσσόθι, τῆλε δ' ἀπ' ἀκτῆς
 γηθόσυννοι φορέοντο παρὰ Ποσιδῆιον ἄκρην.
 ἦμος δ' οὐρανόθεν χαροπὴ ὑπολάμπεται ἠὼς
 ἐκ περάτης ἀνιοῦσα, διαγλαύσσουσι δ' ἀταρποί,
 καὶ πεδία δροσόεντα φαεινῇ λάμπεται αἶγλη,
 τῆμος τούσγ' ἐνόησαν αἰδρεῖνσι λιπόντες.

1280

ἐν δέ σφιν κρατερὸν νεῖκος πέσεν, ἐν δὲ κολῳὸς
 ἄσπετος, εἰ τὸν ἄριστον ἀποπρολιπόντες ἔβησαν
 σφωιτέρων ἐτάρων. ὁ δ' ἀμηχανίησιν ἀτυχθεὶς
 οὔτε τι τοῖον ἔπος μετεφώνεεν, οὔτε τι τοῖον
 Αἰσονίδης· ἀλλ' ἦστο βαρεῖν νειόθεν ἄτη
 θυμὸν ἔδων· Τελαμῶνα δ' ἔλεν χόλος, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·

Ἦσ' αὐτῶς εὐκηλος, ἐπεὶ νῦ τοι ἄρμενον ἦεν
 Ἡρακλῆα λιπεῖν· σέο δ' ἔκτοθι μῆτις ὄρωρεν,
 ὄφρα τὸ κείνου κῦδος ἀν' Ἑλλάδα μὴ σε καλύψῃ,
 αἶ κε θεοὶ δώωσιν ὑπότροπον οἴκαδε νόστον.
 ἀλλὰ τί μύθων ἦδος; ἐπεὶ καὶ νόσφιν ἐταίρων
 εἴμι τεῶν, οἳ τόνγε δόλον συνετεκτῆναντο.

1290

Ἦ, καὶ ἐς Ἀγνιάδην Τίφυν θόρε· τῷ δέ οἱ ὅσσε

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

and the marsh land, and reck not of herdsmen or herd, but presses on, now without check, now standing still, and raising his broad neck he bellows, loudly stung by the maddening fly; so he in his frenzy now would ply his swift knees unresting, now again would cease from toil and shout afar with loud pealing cry.

But straightway the morning star rose above the topmost peaks and the breeze swept down; and quickly did Tiphys urge them to go aboard and avail themselves of the wind. And they embarked eagerly forthwith; and they drew up the ship's anchors and hauled the ropes astern. And the sails were bellied out by the wind, and far from the coast were they joyfully borne past the Posideian headland. But at the hour when gladsome dawn shines from heaven, rising from the east, and the paths stand out clearly, and the dewy plains shine with a bright gleam, then at length they were aware that unwittingly they had abandoned those twain. And a fierce quarrel fell upon them, and violent tumult, for that they had sailed and left behind the bravest of their comrades. And Aeson's son, bewildered by their hapless plight, said never a word, good or bad; but sat with his heavy load of grief, eating out his heart. And wrath seized Telamon, and thus he spake:

"Sit there at thy ease, for it was fitting for thee to leave Heracles behind; from thee the project arose, so that his glory throughout Hellas should not overshadow thee, if so be that heaven grants us a return home. But what pleasure is there in words? For I will go, I only, with none of thy comrades, who have helped thee to plan this treachery."

He spake, and rushed upon Tiphys son of Hagnias;

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

ὅστυλιγγες μαλεροῖο πυρὸς ὥς ἰνδάλλοντο.
καὶ νύ κεν ἄψ ὀπίσω Μυσῶν ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἵκοντο
λαῖτμα βιησάμενοι ἀνέμου τ' ἄλλήκτον ἰωῆν,
εἰ μὴ Θρηκίοιο δῶν υἱὲς Βορέας

1300

Αἰακίδην χαλεποῖσιν ἐρητύεσκον ἔπεσσιν,
σχέτλιοι· ἦ τέ σφιν στυγερὴ τίσις ἔπλετ' ὀπίσσω
χερσὶν ὑφ' Ἡρακλῆος, ὃ μιν δίζεσθαι ἔρυκον.
ἄθλων γὰρ Πελῖας δεδουπότος ἄψ ἀνιόντας
Τήνῳ ἐν ἀμφιρῦτῃ πέφνεν, καὶ ἀμήσατο γαῖαν
ἀμφ' αὐτοῖς, στήλας τε δῶν καθύπερθεν ἔτευξεν,
ὦν ἐτέρη, θάμβος περιώσιον ἀνδράσι λεύσσειν,
κίνυται ἡχήμεντος ὑπὸ πνοιῇ βορέας.

καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς ἡμελλε μετὰ χρόνον ἐκτελέεσθαι.
τοῖσιν δὲ Γλαῦκος βρυχίης ἀλὸς ἐξεφάνθη,
Νηρῆος θείοιο πολυφράδμων ὑποφῆτης·
ὑψι δὲ λαχνηέν τε κάρη καὶ στήθε' αἰείρας
νειόθεν ἐκ λαγόνων στιβαρῇ ἐπορέξατο χειρὶ
νηίου ὀλκαίοιο, καὶ ἴαχεν ἐσσυμένοισιν·

1310

‘Τίπτε παρὲκ μεγάλοιο Διὸς μενεαίνετε βουλὴν
Αἰήτεω πτολίεθρον ἄγειν θρασὺν Ἡρακλῆα;
Ἄργεῖ οἱ μοῖρ' ἐστὶν ἀτασθάλω Εὐρυσθῆϊ
ἐκπλήσαι μογέοντα δυνώδεκα πάντας ἀέθλους,
ναίειν δ' ἀθανάτοισι συνέστιον, εἴ κ' ἔτι παύρους
ἐξανύσῃ· τῷ μὴ τι ποθὴ κείνοιο πελέσθω.
αὐτῶς δ' αὖ Πολύφημον ἐπὶ προχοῇσι Κίοιο
πέπρωται Μυσοῖσι περικλεὲς ἄστνυ καμόντα
μοῖραν ἀναπλήσειν Χαλύβων ἐν ἀπείρονι γαίῃ.
αὐτὰρ ὅτ' ἔλαν φιλότῃ θεὰ ποιήσατο νύμφη
ὄν πόσιν, οἷό περ οὔνεκ' ἀποπλαγχθέντες ἔλειφθεν.’

1320

Ἦ, καὶ κύμ' ἀλίσστον ἐφέσσατο νειόθι δύνψας·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

and his eyes sparkled like flashes of ravening flame. And they would quickly have turned back to the land of the Mysians, forcing their way through the deep sea and the unceasing blasts of the wind, had not the two sons of Thracian Boreas held back the son of Aeacus with harsh words. Hapless ones, assuredly a bitter vengeance came upon them thereafter at the hands of Heracles, because they stayed the search for him. For when they were returning from the games over Pelias dead he slew them in sea-girt Tenos and heaped the earth round them, and placed two columns above, one of which, a great marvel for men to see, moves at the breath of the blustering north wind. These things were thus to be accomplished in after times. But to them appeared Glaucus from the depths of the sea, the wise interpreter of divine Nereus, and raising aloft his shaggy head and chest from his waist below, with sturdy hand he seized the ship's keel, and then cried to the eager crew :

“Why against the counsel of mighty Zeus do ye purpose to lead bold Heracles to the city of Aeetes? At Argos it is his fate to labour for insolent Eurystheus and to accomplish full twelve toils and dwell with the immortals, if so be that he bring to fulfilment a few more yet; wherefore let there be no vain regret for him. Likewise it is destined for Polyphemus to found a glorious city at the mouth of Cius among the Mysians and to fill up the measure of his fate in the vast land of the Chalybes. But a goddess-nymph through love has made Hylas her husband, on whose account those two wandered and were left behind.”

He spake, and with a plunge wrapped him about

ἀμφὶ δέ οἱ δίνῃσι κυκώμενον ἄφρεεν ὕδωρ
 πορφύρεον, κοίλῃν δὲ διέξ ἄλδς ἔκλυσε νῆα.
 γήθησαν δ' ἥρωες· ὁ δ' ἐσσυμένως ἐβεβήκει
 Αἰακίδης Τελαμῶν ἐς Ἰήсона, χεῖρα δὲ χειρὶ 1330
 ἄκρην ἀμφιβαλὼν προσπτύξατο, φώνησέν τε·

‘ Αἰσούνιδη, μή μοί τι χολώσεται, ἀφραδίῃσιν
 εἴ τί περ ἀασάμην· περὶ γάρ μ' ἄχος εἶλεν ἐνισπείν
 μῦθον ὑπερφιάλόν τε καὶ ἄσχετον. ἀλλ' ἀνέμοισιν
 δώομεν ἀμπλακίην, ὥς καὶ πάρος εὐμένεοντες.’

Τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἴσσονος υἱὸς ἐπιφραδέως προσέειπεν·
 ‘ ὦ πέπον, ἦ μάλα δὴ με κακῶ ἐκνδάσσαις μύθῳ,
 φὰς ἐνὶ τοῖσιν ἅπασιν ἐνῆός ἀνδρὸς ἀλείτῃν
 ἔμμεναι. ἀλλ' οὐ θήν τοι ἀδενῦκῆα μῆνιν ἀέξω,
 πρίν περ ἀνιηθείς· ἐπεὶ οὐ περὶ πώεσι μήλων, 1340
 οὐδὲ περὶ κτεάτεσσι χαλεψάμενος μενέηνας,
 ἀλλ' ἐτάρου περὶ φωτός. ἔολπα δέ τοι σὲ καὶ
 ἄλλῳ

ἀμφ' ἐμεῦ, εἰ τοιόνδε πέλοι ποτέ, δηρίσασθαι.’

Ἡ ῥα, καὶ ἀρθμηθέντες, ὅπῃ πάρος, ἐδριώοντο.
 τῷ δὲ Διὸς βουλῇσιν, ὁ μὲν Μυσοῖσι βαλέσθαι
 μέλλεν ἐπώνυμον ἄστν πολισσάμενος ποταμοῖο
 Εἰλατίδης Πολύφημος· ὁ δ' Εὐρυσθῆος ἀέθλους
 αὐτίς ἰὼν πονέεσθαι. ἐπηπείλησε δὲ γαῖαν
 Μυσίδ' ἀναστήσειν αὐτοσχεδόν, ὅππότε μή οἱ
 ἦ ζωοῦ εὐροίεν Ὕλα μόρον, ἢ ἐθανόντος. 1350
 τοῖο δὲ ῥύσι' ὅπασσαν ἀποκρίναντες ἀρίστους
 υἱέας ἐκ δήμοιο, καὶ ὄρκια ποιήσαντο,
 μήποτε μαστεύοντες ἀπολλήξειν καμάτοιο.
 τούνεκεν εἰσέτι νῦν περ Ὕλαν ἐρέουσι Κιανοί,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

with the restless wave; and round him the dark water foamed in seething eddies and dashed against the hollow ship as it moved through the sea. And the heroes rejoiced, and Telamon son of Aeacus came in haste to Jason, and grasping his hand in his own embraced him with these words:

“Son of Aeson, be not wroth with me, if in my folly I have erred, for grief wrought upon me to utter a word arrogant and intolerable. But let me give my fault to the winds and let our hearts be joined as before.”

Him the son of Aeson with prudence addressed: “Good friend, assuredly with an evil word didst thou revile me, saying that I was the wronger of a kindly man. But not for long will I nurse bitter wrath, though indeed before I was grieved. For it was not for flocks of sheep, no, nor for possessions that thou wast angered to fury, but for a man, thy comrade. And I were fain thou wouldst even champion me against another man if a like thing should ever befall me.”

He spake, and they sat down, united as of old. But of those two, by the counsel of Zeus, one, Polyphemus son of Eilatus, was destined to found and build a city among the Mysians bearing the river's name, and the other, Heracles, to return and toil at the labours of Eurystheus. And he threatened to lay waste the Mysian land at once, should they not discover for him the doom of Hylas, whether living or dead. And for him they gave pledges choosing out the noblest sons of the people and took an oath that they would never cease from their labour of search. Therefore to this day the people of Cius enquire for Hylas the son of

κούρον Θειοδάμαντος, ἐυκτιμένης τε μέλονται
Τρηχίνος. δὴ γάρ ῥα κατ' αὐτόθι νάσσατο παῖδας,
οὓς οἱ ῥύσια κεῖθεν ἐπιπροέηκαν ἄγεσθαι.

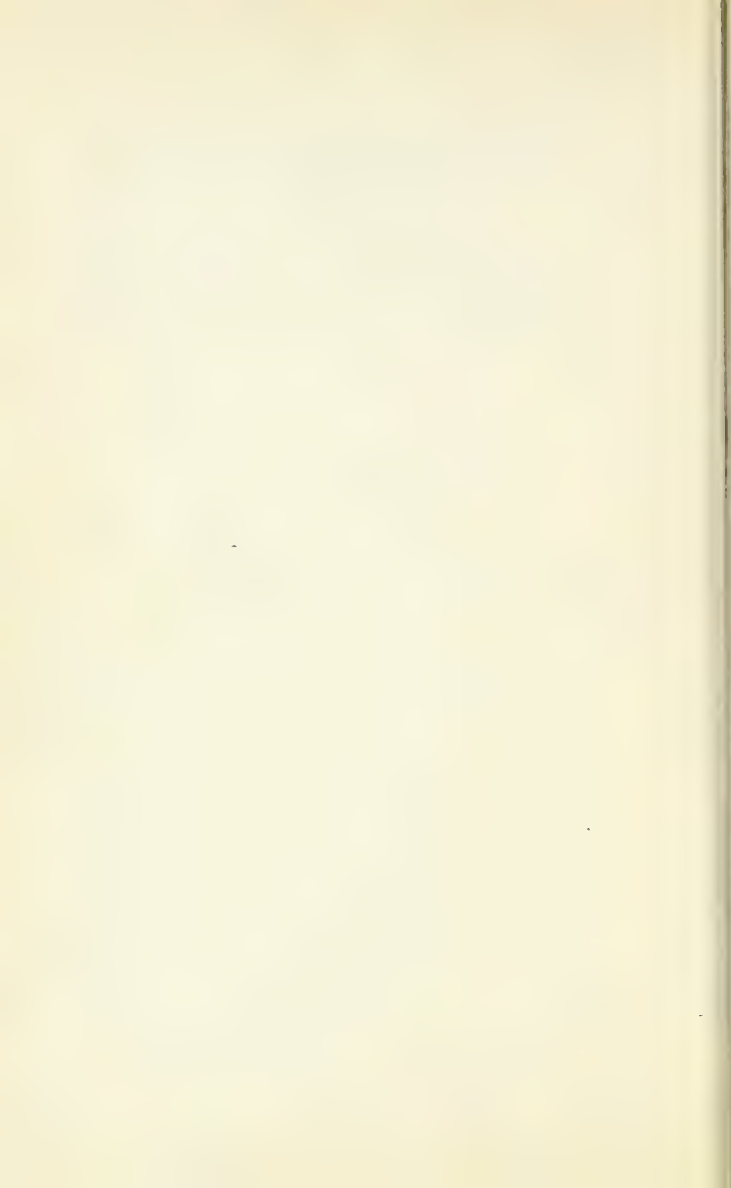
Νηὺν δὲ πανημερίην ἄνεμος φέρε νυκτί τε πάσῃ
λάβρος ἐπιπνείων· ἀτὰρ οὐδ' ἐπὶ τυτθὸν ἄητο
ἡοῦς τελλομένης, οἱ δὲ χθονὸς εἰσανέχουσιν
ἄκτῃν ἐκ κόλποιο μάλ' εὐρεῖαν ἐσιδέσθαι
φρασσάμενοι, κώπησιν ἅμ' ἡελίῳ ἐπέκελσαν.

1360

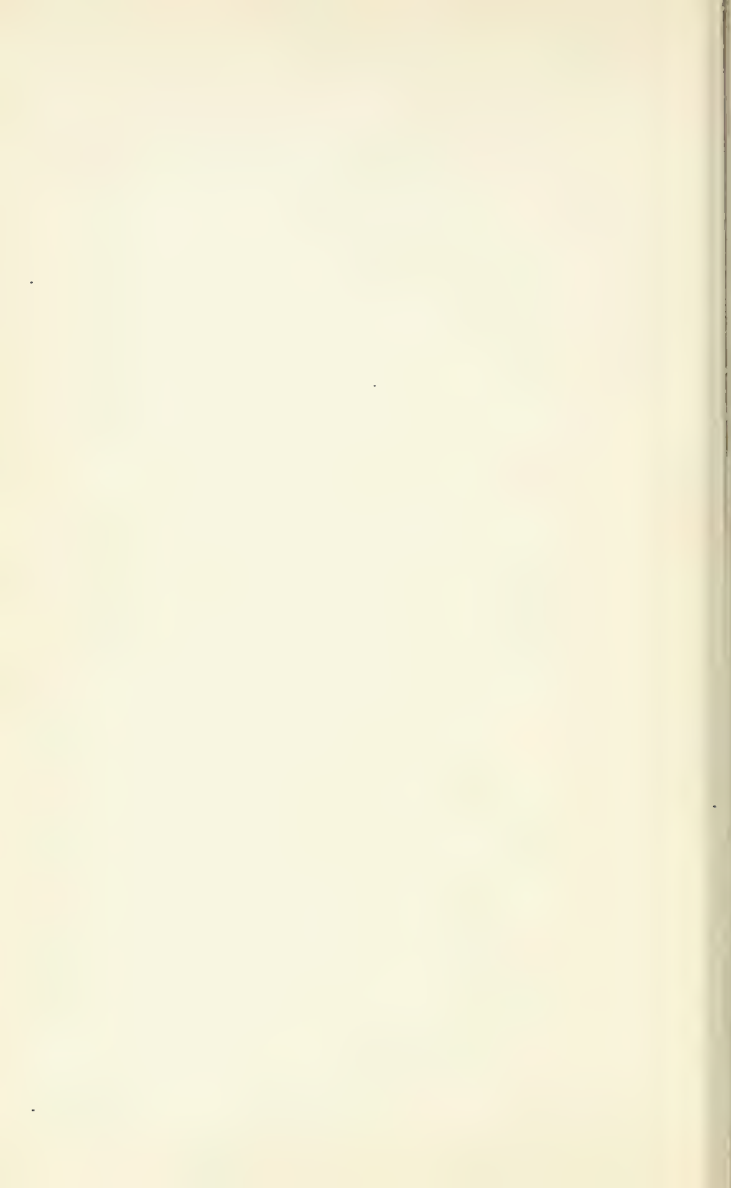
THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK I

Theiodamas, and take thought for the well-built Trachis. For there did Heracles settle the youths whom they sent from Cius as pledges.

And all day long and all night the wind bore the ship on, blowing fresh and strong; but when dawn rose there was not even a breath of air. And they marked a beach jutting forth from a bend of the coast, very broad to behold, and by dint of rowing came to land at sunrise.



BOOK II



SUMMARY OF BOOK II

FIGHT *between Polydeuces and Amycus, King of the Bebrycians; defeat and death of Amycus (1-97).—Victory of the Argonauts over the Bebrycians; arrival at the abode of Phineus (98-177).—History of Phineus and the Harpies, who are chased by Zetes and Calais, sons of Boreas (178-300).—Prediction of Phineus and return of the sons of Boreas (301-447).—Episode of Paraebius (448-499).—Origin of the Etesian winds (500-527).—Argo passes between the Symplegades by the aid of Athena (528-647).—Arrival at the isle Thynias: apparition of Apollo, to whom they pay honour (648-719).—Arrival among the Mariandyni, where King Lycus welcomes them (720-814).—Deaths of Idmon and Tiphys: Ancaeus chosen pilot (815-910).—The Argonauts pass Sinope and the Cape of the Amazons, and reach the Chalybes (911-1008).—Customs of the Tibareni and Mossynoeci (1009-1029).—Contest with the birds of the isle Aretias, where they meet with the sons of Phrixus, shipwrecked on their way to Hellas (1030-1225).—Arrival in Colchis (1226-1285).*

Ἔνθα δ' ἔσαν σταθμοί τε βοῶν αὐλὶς τ' Ἀμύκοιο,
 Βεβρύκων βασιλῆος ἀγῆνορος, ὃν ποτε νύμφη
 τίκτε Ποσειδάωνι Γενεθλίῳ εὐνηθεῖσα
 Βιθυνὶς Μελίη, ὑπεροπληέστατον ἀνδρῶν·
 ὅστ' ἐπὶ καὶ ξείνοισιν ἀεικέα θεσμὸν ἔθηκεν,
 μήτιν' ἀποστείχειν, πρὶν πειρήσασθαι ἐοῖο
 πυγμαχίης· πολέας δὲ περικτιόνων ἐδάϊξεν.
 καὶ δὲ τότε προτὶ νῆα κιῶν, χρεῖώ μιν ἐρέσθαι
 ναυτιλίας, οἳ τ' εἶεν, ὑπερβασίσησιν ἄτισσεν,
 τοῖον δ' ἐν πάντεσσι παρασχεδὸν ἔκφατο μῦθον· 10

Κέκλυθ', ἀλίπλαγκτοι, τάπερ ἴδμεναι ὑμῖν
 ἔοικεν.

οὔτινα θέσμιόν ἐστιν ἀφορμηθέντα νέεσθαι
 ἀνδρῶν ὀθνεῖων, ὅς κεν Βέβρυξι πελάσση,
 πρὶν χεῖρεσσιν ἐμῇσιν ἕως ἀνὰ χεῖρας ἀεῖραι.
 τῷ καί μοι τὸν ἄριστον ἀποκριδὸν οἶον ὀμίλου
 πυγμαχίῃ στήσασθε καταυτόθι δηρινθῆναι.
 εἰ δ' ἂν ἀπηλεγέοντες ἐμὰς πατέοιτε θέμιστας,
 ἢ κέν τις στυγερώς κρατερὴ ἐπιέψετ' ἀνάγκη·

Ἡ ῥα μέγα φρονέων· τοὺς δ' ἄγριος εἰσαΐοντας
 εἶλε χόλος· περὶ δ' αὖ Πολυδεύκεα τύψεν
 ὁμοκλή· 20

αἶψα δ' ἐὼν ἐτάρων πρόμος ἴστατο, φώνησέν τε·
 “Ἴσχεο νῦν, μῆδ' ἄμμι κακὴν, ὅτις εὐχεα εἶναι,
 φαῖνε βίην· θεσμοῖς γὰρ ὑπείξομεν, ὡς ἀγορεύεις.
 αὐτὸς ἐκὼν ἤδη τοι ὑπίσχομαι ἀντιάσθαι.”

BOOK II

HERE were the oxstalls and farm of Amycus, the haughty king of the Bebrycians, whom once a nymph, Bithynian Melie, united to Poseidon Genethlius, bare—the most arrogant of men; for even for strangers he laid down an insulting ordinance, that none should depart till they had made trial of him in boxing; and he had slain many of the neighbours. And at that time too he went down to the ship and in his insolence scorned to ask them the occasion of their voyage, and who they were, but at once spake out among them all :

“Listen, ye wanderers by sea, to what it befits you to know. It is the rule that no stranger who comes to the Bebrycians should depart till he has raised his hands in battle against mine. Wherefore select your bravest warrior from the host and set him here on the spot to contend with me in boxing. But if ye pay no heed and trample my decrees under foot, assuredly to your sorrow will stern necessity come upon you.”

Thus he spake in his pride, but fierce anger seized them when they heard it, and the challenge smote Polydeuces most of all. And quickly he stood forth his comrades' champion, and cried :

“Hold now, and display not to us thy brutal violence, whoever thou art; for we will obey thy rules, as thou sayest. Willingly now do I myself undertake to meet thee.”

ὧς φάτ' ἀπηλεγέως· ὁ δ' ἐσέδρακεν ὄμμαθ'
ἐλίξας,

ὥστε λέων ὑπ' ἄκοντι τετυμμένος, ὄντ' ἐν ὄρεσσιν
ἄνδρες ἀμφιπένονται· ὁ δ' ἰλλόμενός περ ὁμίλῳ
τῶν μὲν ἔτ' οὐκ ἀλέγει, ἐπὶ δ' ὅσσεται οἴοθεν οἶος
ἄνδρα τόν, ὅς μιν ἔτυψε παροίτατος, οὐδ' ἐδά-
μασσεν.

ἐνθ' ἀπὸ¹ Τυνδαρίδης μὲν εὐστιπτον θέτο φᾶρος 30
λεπταλέον, τό ρά οἱ τις ἐὼν ξεινήιον εἶναι
ᾤπασε Δημνιάδων· ὁ δ' ἐρεμνὴν δίπτυχα λώπην
αὐτῇσιν περόνησι καλαύροπά τε τρηχεῖαν
κάββαλε, τὴν φορέεσκεν, ὀριτρεφὲς κοτίνοιο.
αὐτίκα δ' ἐγγύθι χῶρον ἐαδότα παπτήναντες
ἶζον ἐοὺς δίχα πάντα ἐνὶ ψαμάθοισιν ἐταίρους,
οὐ δέμας, οὐδὲ φυὴν ἐναλίγκιοι εἰσοράασθαι.
ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἦ ὀλοοῖο Τυφώος, ἥε καὶ αὐτῆς
Γαίης εἶναι ἕκτο πέλωρ τέκος, οἷα πάροιθεν
χωομένη Διὶ τίκτεν· ὁ δ' οὐρανίῳ ἀτάλαντος 40
ἀστέρι Τυνδαρίδης, οὐπερ κάλλισται ἔασιν
ἐσπερίην διὰ νύκτα φαεινομένου ἀμαρυγαί.
τοῖος ἔην Διὸς υἱός, ἔτι χνοάοντας ἰούλους
ἀντέλλων, ἔτι φαιδρὸς ἐν ὄμμασιν. ἀλλὰ οἱ ἀλκὴ
καὶ μένος ἤυτε θηρὸς ἀέξετο· πῆλε δὲ χεῖρας
πειράζων, εἴθ' ὥς πρὶν ἐντροχάλοι φορέονται,
μηδ' ἄμυδις καμάτῳ τε καὶ εἰρεσίῃ βαρύνθοιεν.
οὐ μὰν αὐτ' Ἀμυκος πειρήσατο· σίγα δ' ἄπωθεν
ἐστήνῃς εἰς αὐτὸν ἔχ' ὄμματα, καὶ οἱ ὀρέχθει 50
θυμὸς ἐέλδομένῳ στηθέων ἐξ αἶμα κεδάσσαι.
τοῖσι δὲ μεσσηγὺς θεράπων Ἀμύκοιο Λυκωρεὺς
θῆκε πάροιθε ποδῶν δοιοὺς ἐκάτερθεν ἱμάντας

¹ ἀπὸ Merkel : αὐ MSS.

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Thus he spake outright; but the other with rolling eyes glared on him, like to a lion struck by a javelin when hunters in the mountains are hemming him round, and, though pressed by the throng, he recked no more of them, but keeps his eyes fixed, singling out that man only who struck him first and slew him not. Hereupon the son of Tyndareus laid aside his mantle, closely-woven, delicately-wrought, which one of the Lemnian maidens had given him as a pledge of hospitality; and the king threw down his dark cloak of double fold with its clasps and the knotted crook of mountain olive which he carried. Then straightway they looked and chose close by a spot that pleased them and bade their comrades sit upon the sand in two lines; nor were they alike to behold in form or in stature. The one seemed to be a monstrous son of baleful Typhoeus or of Earth herself, such as she brought forth aforetime, in her wrath against Zeus; but the other, the son of Tyndareus, was like a star of heaven, whose beams are fairest as it shines through the nightly sky at eventide. Such was the son of Zeus, the bloom of the first down still on his cheeks, still with the look of gladness in his eyes. But his might and fury waxed like a wild beast's; and he poised his hands to see if they were pliant as before and were not altogether numbed by toil and rowing. But Amycus on his side made no trial; but standing apart in silence he kept his eyes upon his foe, and his spirit surged within him all eager to dash the life-blood from his breast. And between them Lycoreus, the henchman of Amycus, placed at their feet on each side two pairs of gauntlets made of raw hide, dry, exceeding

ὦμούς, ἀζαλέους, περὶ δ' οἷγ' ἔσαν ἐσκληῶτες.
αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγ' ἐπέεσσιν ὑπερφιάλοισι μετηύδα·

‘Τῶνδέ τοι ὄν κ' ἐθέλησθα, πάλου ἄτερ ἐγγυαλίζω
αὐτὸς ἐκών, ἵνα μὴ μοι ἀτέμβηαι μετόπισθεν.
ἀλλὰ βάλευ περὶ χειρί· δαεὶς δέ κεν ἄλλω
ἐνίσποις,

ὅσσον ἐγὼ ῥινούς τε βοῶν περίειμι ταμέσθαι
ἀζαλέας, ἀνδρῶν τε παρηίδας αἵματι φύρσαι.’

ᾧς ἔφατ'· αὐτὰρ ὅγ' οὔτι παραβλήδην ἐρίδηνεν· 60
ἦκα δὲ μειδήσας, οἷ οἱ παρὰ ποσσὶν ἔκειντο,
τοὺς ἔλεν ἀπροφάτως· τοῦ δ' ἀντίος ἤλυθε Κάστωρ
ἠδὲ Βιαντιάδης Ταλαὸς μέγας· ὦκα δ' ἱμάντας
ἀμφέδεον, μάλα πολλὰ παρηγορέοντες ἐς ἀλκὴν.
τῷ δ' αὖτ' Ἀρητὸς τε καὶ Ὀρνυτος, οὐδέ τι ἦδειν
νήπιοι ὕστατα κεῖνα κακῇ δῆσαντες ἐν αἴσῃ.

Οἱ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἱμᾶσι διασταδὸν ἠρτύναντο,
αὐτίκ' ἀνασχόμενοι ρεθέων προπάροιθε βαρείας
χεῖρας, ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισι μένος φέρον ἀντιόωντες. 70
ἐνθα δὲ Βεβρύκων μὲν ἄναξ, ἅτε κῦμα θαλάσσης
τρηχὺ θοὴν ἐπὶ νῆα κορύσσεται, ἣ δ' ὑπὸ τυτθὸν
ἰδρεῖη πυκινόοιο κυβερνητῆρος ἀλύσκει,
ἰεμένου φορέεσθαι ἔσω τοίχοιο κλύδωνος,
ὥς ὅγε Τυνδαρίδην φοβέων ἔπετ', οὐδέ μιν εἶα
δηθύνειν. ὁ δ' ἄρ' αἰὲν ἀνούτατος ἦν διὰ μῆτιν
αἰσσουντ'¹ ἀλέεινεν· ἀπῆνέα δ' αἶψα νοήσας
πυγμαχίην, ἥ κάρτος ἀάατος, ἥ τε χερείων,
στῇ ῥ' ἄμοτον καὶ χερσὶν ἐναντία χεῖρας ἔμιξεν.
ὥς δ' ὅτε νῆα δοῦρα θοοῖς ἀντίξοα γόμφοις
ἀνέρες ὑληουργοὶ ἐπιβλήδην ἐλάουντες 80
θείνωσι σφύρησιν, ἐπ' ἄλλω δ' ἄλλος ἄηται

¹ αἰσσουντ' Pierson : αἰσσωων MSS.

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tough. And the king addressed the hero with arrogant words :

“ Whichever of these thou wilt, without casting lots, I grant thee freely, that thou mayst not blame me hereafter. Bind them about thy hands ; thou shalt learn and tell another how skilled I am to carve the dry oxhides and to spatter men’s cheeks with blood.”

Thus he spake ; but the other gave back no taunt in answer, but with a light smile readily took up the gauntlets that lay at his feet ; and to him came Castor and mighty Talaus, son of Bias, and they quickly bound the gauntlets about his hands, often bidding him be of good courage. And to Amycus came Aretus and Ornytus, but little they knew, poor fools, that they had bound them for the last time on their champion, a victim of evil fate.

Now when they stood apart and were ready with their gauntlets, straightway in front of their faces they raised their heavy hands and matched their might in deadly strife. Hereupon the Bebrycian king—even as a fierce wave of the sea rises in a crest against a swift ship, but she by the skill of the crafty pilot just escapes the shock when the billow is eager to break over the bulwark—so he followed up the son of Tyndareus, trying to daunt him, and gave him no respite. But the hero, ever unwounded, by his skill baffled the rush of his foe, and he quickly noted the brutal play of his fists to see where he was invincible in strength, and where inferior, and stood unceasingly and returned blow for blow. And as when shipwrights with their hammers smite ships’ timbers to meet the sharp clamps, fixing

δοῦπος ἄδην· ὥς τοῖσι παρήιά τ' ἀμφοτέρωθεν
καὶ γένυες κτύπεον· βρυχή δ' ὑπετέλλετ' ὀδόντων
ἄσπετος, οὐδ' ἔλληξαν ἐπισταδὸν οὐτάζοντες,
ἔστε περ οὐλοὺν ἄσθμα καὶ ἀμφοτέρους ἐδάμασσαν.
στάντε δὲ βαιὸν ἄπωθεν ἀπωμόρξαντο μετώπων
ἰδρῶ ἄλιν, καματηρὸν ἀντμένα φυσιῶντε.
ἄψ δ' αὖτις συνόρουσαν ἐναντίοι, ἥύτε ταύρω
φορβάδος ἀμφὶ βοὸς κεκοτηότε δηριάασθον.
ἔνθα δ' ἔπειτ' Ἄμυκος μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισιν
ἀερθεῖς,

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βουτύπος οἶα, πόδεσσι τανύσσατο, καὶ δὲ βαρεῖαν
χεῖρ' ἐπὶ οἷ πελέμιξεν· ὁ δ' αἶξαντος ὑπέστη,
κράτα παρακλίνας, ὥμῳ δ' ἀνεδέξατο πῆχυν
τυτθόν· ὁ δ' ἄγχ' αὐτοῖο παρέκ γόνυ γουνὸς ἀμείβων
κόψε μεταίγδην ὑπὲρ οὔατος, ὅστέα δ' εἴσω
ῤῆξεν· ὁ δ' ἀμφ' ὀδύνη γνῦξ ἤριπεν· οἱ δ' ἰάχισαν
ἥρωες Μινύαι· τοῦ δ' ἀθρόος ἔκχυτο θυμός.

Οὐδ' ἄρα Βέβρυκες ἄνδρες ἀφείδισαν βασιλῆος·
ἀλλ' ἄμυδις κορύνας ἀζηχέας ἠδὲ σιγύννους
ἰθὺς ἀνασχόμενοι Πολυδεύκεος ἀντιάσκον.

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τοῦ δὲ πάρος κολεῶν εὐήκεα φάσγαν' ἐταῖροι
ἔσταν ἐρυσσάμενοι· πρῶτός γε μὲν ἀνέρα Κάστωρ
ἤλασ' ἐπεσσύμενον κεφαλῆς ὕπερ· ἡ δ' ἐκάτερθεν
ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθ' ὥμοισιν ἐπ' ἀμφοτέροις ἐκεάσθη.
αὐτὸς δ' Ἰτυμονῆα πελώριον ἠδὲ Μίμαντα,
τὸν μὲν ὑπὸ στέρνοιο θοῶ ποδὶ λάξ ἐπορούσας
πλήξε, καὶ ἐν κοίῃσι βάλεν· τοῦ δ' ἄσσον
ἰόντος

δεξιτερῇ σκαιῆς ὑπὲρ ὀφρύος ἤλασε χεῖρί,
δρῦψε δέ οἱ βλέφαρον, γυμνὴ δ' ὑπελείπετ' ὀπωπῇ.
᾽Ωρεΐδης δ' Ἀμύκοιο βίην ὑπέροπλος ὀπάων
οὐτα Βιαντιάδαο κατὰ λαπάρην Ταλαοῖο,

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layer upon layer; and the blows resound one after another; so cheeks and jaws crashed on both sides, and a huge clattering of teeth arose, nor did they cease ever from striking their blows until laboured gasping overcame both. And standing a little apart they wiped from their foreheads sweat in abundance, wearily panting for breath. Then back they rushed together again, as two bulls fight in furious rivalry for a grazing heifer. Next Amycus rising on tiptoe, like one who slays an ox, sprung to his full height and swung his heavy hand down upon his rival; but the hero swerved aside from the rush, turning his head, and just received the arm on his shoulder; and coming near and slipping his knee past the king's, with a rush he struck him above the ear, and broke the bones inside, and the king in agony fell upon his knees; and the Minyan heroes shouted for joy; and his life was poured forth all at once.

Nor were the Bebrycians reckless of their king; but all together took up rough clubs and spears and rushed straight on Polydeuces. But in front of him stood his comrades, their keen swords drawn from the sheath. First Castor struck upon the head a man as he rushed at him: and it was cleft in twain and fell on each side upon his shoulders. And Polydeuces slew huge Itymoneus and Mimas. The one, with a sudden leap, he smote beneath the breast with his swift foot and threw him in the dust; and as the other drew near he struck him with his right hand above the left eyebrow, and tore away his eyelid and the eyeball was left bare. But Oreides, insolent henchman of Amycus, wounded Talaus son of Bias in the side, but did not slay him,

ἀλλά μιν οὐ κατέπεφνεν, ὅσον δ' ἐπὶ δέρματι μῦνον
νηδυίων ἄψαυστος ὑπὸ ζώνην θόρε χαλκός.
αὕτως δ' Ἄρητος μενεδήιον Εὐρύτου νῆα
Ἴφιτον ἀζαλή κορύνῃ στυφέλιξεν ἐλάσσας,
οὐπω κηρὶ κακῇ πεπρωμένον· ἦ τάχ' ἔμελλεν
αὐτὸς δηώσεσθαι ὑπὸ ξίφεϊ Κλυτίοιο.

καὶ τότε ἄρ' Ἀγκαῖος Λυκοόργιοιο θρασὺς υἱὸς
αἶψα μάλ' ἀντεταγὼν πέλεκυν μέγαν ἠδὲ κελαινὸν
ἄρκτου προσχόμενος σκαιῇ δέρος ἔνθορε μέσσω 120
ἔμμεμαῶς Βέβρυξιν· ὁμοῦ δέ οἱ ἐσσεύοντο
Αἰακίδαι, σὺν δέ σφιν ἀρήιος ὤρνυτ' Ἰήσων.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσιν ἀπείρονα μῆλ' ἐφόβησαν
ἡματι χειμερίῳ πολιοὶ λύκοι ὀρμηθέντες
λάθρῃ ἐυρρίνων τε κυνῶν αὐτῶν τε νομήων,
μαίονται δ' ὅ τι πρῶτον ἐπαΐξαντες ἔλωσιν,
πόλλ' ἐπιπαμφαλόωντες ὁμοῦ· τὰ δὲ πάντοθεν
αὕτως

στείνονται πίπτοντα περὶ σφίσιν· ὥς ἄρα τοίγε
λευγαλέως Βέβρυκας ὑπερφιάλους ἐφόβησαν.
ὥς δὲ μελισσῶν σμῆνος μέγα μηλοβοτῆρες 130
ἢ μελισσοκόμοι πέτρῃ ἐνὶ καπνιόωσιν,
αἱ δ' ἥτοι τείως μὲν ἀολλέες ὧ ἐνὶ σίμβλῳ
βομβηδὸν κλονέονται, ἐπιπρὸ δὲ λιγνυόεντι
καπνῷ τυφόμεναι πέτρης ἐκὰς αἰσσοῦσιν·
ὥς οἷγ' οὐκέτι δὴν μένον ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἐκέδασθεν
εἴσω Βεβρυκίης, Ἀμύκου μόρον ἀγγελέοντες·
νήπιοι, οὐδ' ἐνοήσαν ὃ δὴ σφισιν ἐγγύθεν ἄλλο
πῆμ' αἰδηλον ἔην. πέρθοντο γὰρ ἡμὲν ἄλωαι
ἠδ' οἶαι τῆμος δῆψ ὑπὸ δουρὶ Λύκοιο
καὶ Μαριανδυνῶν ἀνδρῶν, ἀπεύντος ἀνακτος. 140
αἰεὶ γὰρ μάρναντο σιδηροφόρου περὶ γαίης.
οἱ δ' ἤδη σταθμούς τε καὶ αὔλια δηιάσκον·

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but only grazing the skin the bronze sped under his belt and touched not the flesh. Likewise Aretus with well-seasoned club smote Iphitus, the steadfast son of Eurytus, not yet destined to an evil death; assuredly soon was he himself to be slain by the sword of Clytius. Then Ancaeus, the dauntless son of Lycurgus, quickly seized his huge axe, and in his left hand holding a bear's dark hide, plunged into the midst of the Bebrycians with furious onset; and with him charged the sons of Aeacus, and with them started warlike Jason. And as when amid the folds grey wolves rush down on a winter's day and scare countless sheep, unmarked by the keen-scented dogs and the shepherds too, and they seek what first to attack and carry off, often glaring around, but the sheep are just huddled together and trample on one another; so the heroes grievously scared the arrogant Bebrycians. And as shepherds or bee-keepers smoke out a huge swarm of bees in a rock, and they meanwhile, pent up in their hive, murmur with droning hum, till, stupefied by the murky smoke, they fly forth far from the rock; so they stayed steadfast no longer, but scattered themselves inland through Bebrycia, proclaiming the death of Amycus; fools, not to perceive that another woe all unforeseen was hard upon them. For at that hour their vineyards and villages were being ravaged by the hostile spear of Lycus and the Mariandyni, now that their king was gone. For they were ever at strife about the ironbearing land. And now the foe was destroying their steadings and farms,

ἤδη δ' ἄσπετα μῆλα περιτροπάδην ἐτάμοντο
ἥρωες, καὶ δὴ τις ἔπος μετὰ τοῖσιν ἔειπεν·

‘Φράζεσθ’ ὅττι κεν ἦσιν ἀναλκείησιν ἔρεξαν,
εἴ πως Ἡρακλῆα θεὸς καὶ δεῦρο κόμισσεν.
ἦτοι μὲν γὰρ ἐγὼ κείνου παρεόντος ἔολπα
οὐδ’ ἂν πυγμαχίῃ κρινθήμεναι· ἀλλ’ ὅτε θεσμοὺς
ἦλυθεν ἐξερέων, αὐτοῖς ἄφαρ οἷς ἀγόρευεν
θεσμοῖσιν ῥοπάλω μιν ἀγηνορίης λελαθέσθαι.
ναὶ μὲν ἀκήδεστον γαίῃ ἐνὶ τόνγε λιπόντες
πόντον ἐπέπλωμεν· μάλα δ’ ἡμέων αὐτὸς ἕκαστος
εἴσεται οὐλομένην ἄτην, ἀπάνευθεν ἐόντος.’

᾽Ως ἄρ’ ἔφη· τὰ δὲ πάντα Διὸς βουλῇσι
τέτυκτο.

καὶ τότε μὲν μένον αὖθι διὰ κνέφας, ἔλκεά τ’
ἄνδρῶν

οὐταμένων ἀκέοντο, καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θνητὰς
ῥέξαντες μέγα δόρπον ἐφώπλισαν· οὐδέ τιν’ ὕπνος
εἶλε παρὰ κρητῆρι καὶ αἰθομένοις ἱεροῖσιν.

ξανθὰ δ’ ἐρεψάμενοι δάφνη καθύπερθε μέτωπα
ἀγχιάλω, τῇ καί τε περὶ πρυμνήσι’ ἀνῆπτο,
᾽Ορφεῖη φόρμιγγι συνοίμιον ὕμνον ἄειδον
ἐμμελέως· περὶ δέ σφιν ἰαίνεται νήνεμος ἀκτὴ
μελπομένοις· κλείον δὲ Θεραπναῖον Διὸς νῆα.

᾽Ημος δ’ ἡέλιος δροσερὰς ἐπέλαμψε κολώνας,
ἐκ περάτων ἀνιών, ἥγειρε δὲ μηλοβοτῆρας,
δὴ τότε λυσάμενοι νεάτης ἐκ πείσματα δάφνης
ληίδα τ’ εἰσβήσαντες ὅσῃν χρεὼ ἦεν ἄγεσθαι,
πνοιῇ δινήεντ’ ἀνὰ Βόσπορον ἰθύνουτο.

ἔνθα μὲν ἡλιβάτῳ ἐναλίγκιον οὐρεὶ κῶμα
ἀμφέρεται προπάροιθεν ἐπαίσσοντι ἐοικός,
αἰὲν ὑπὲρ νεφέων ἡερμένον· οὐδέ κε φαίης

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and now the heroes from all sides were driving off their countless sheep, and one spake among his fellows thus :

“Bethink ye what they would have done in their cowardice if haply some god had brought Heracles hither. Assuredly, if he had been here, no trial would there have been of fists, I ween, but when the king drew near to proclaim his rules, the club would have made him forget his pride and the rules to boot. Yea, we left him uncared for on the strand and we sailed oversea ; and full well each one of us shall know our baneful folly, now that he is far away.”

Thus he spake, but all these things had been wrought by the counsels of Zeus. Then they remained there through the night and tended the hurts of the wounded men, and offered sacrifice to the immortals, and made ready a mighty meal ; and sleep fell upon no man beside the bowl and the blazing sacrifice. They wreathed their fair brows with the bay that grew by the shore, whereto their hawsers were bound, and chanted a song to the lyre of Orpheus in sweet harmony ; and the windless shore was charmed by their song ; and they celebrated the Therapnaean son of Zeus.¹

But when the sun rising from far lands lighted up the dewy hills and wakened the shepherds, then they loosed their hawsers from the stem of the bay-tree and put on board all the spoil they had need to take ; and with a favouring wind they steered through the eddying Bosphorus. Hereupon a wave like a steep mountain rose aloft in front as though rushing upon them, ever upheaved above the clouds ; nor would you say that they could escape grim

¹ *i.e.* Polydeuces.

φεύξεσθαι κακὸν οἶτον, ἐπεὶ μάλα μεσσόθι νηὸς
 λάβρον ἐπικρέμαται, καθάπερ νέφος. ἀλλὰ τόγ'
 ἔμψης

στόρνυται, εἴ κ' ἐσθλοῖο κυβερνητῆρος ἐπαύρη.
 τῷ καὶ Τίφυος οἶδε δαημοσύνησι νέοντό,
 ἀσκηθεῖς μὲν, ἀτὰρ πεφοβημένοι. ἥματι δ' ἄλλω
 ἀντιπέρην γαίῃ Βιθυνίδι πείσματ' ἀνῆψαν.

Ἔνθα δ' ἐπάκτιον οἶκον Ἀγνηγορίδης ἔχε Φινεύς,
 ὃς περὶ δὴ πάντων ὀλωώτατα πῆματ' ἀνετλη
 εἵνεκα μαντοσύνης, τὴν οἱ πάρος ἐγγυάλιξεν
 Λητοῖδης· οὐδ' ὅσον ὀπίζετο καὶ Διὸς αὐτοῦ
 χρείων ἀτρεκέως ἱερὸν νόον ἀνθρώποισιν.
 τῷ καὶ οἱ γῆρας μὲν ἐπὶ δηναῖον ἴαλλεν,
 ἐκ δ' ἔλετ' ὀφθαλμῶν γλυκερὸν φάος· οὐδὲ γάνυ-
 σθαι

εἶα ἀπειρεσίοισιν ὀνείασιν, ὅσσα οἱ αἰεὶ
 θέσφατα πευθόμενοι περιναίεται οἴκαδ' ἄγειρον.
 ἀλλὰ διὰ νεφέων ἄφνω πέλας αἴσσουσαι
 Ἄρπυιαι στόματος χειρῶν τ' ἀπὸ γαμφηλῆσιν
 συνεχέως ἥρπαζον. ἐλείπετο δ' ἄλλοτε φορβῆς
 οὐδ' ὅσον, ἄλλοτε τυτθόν, ἵνα ζῶων ἀκάχοιτο.
 καὶ δ' ἐπὶ μυδαλέην ὁδμὴν χέον· οὐδέ τις ἔτλη
 μὴ καὶ λευκανίηνδε φορέύμενος, ἀλλ' ἀποτηλοῦ
 ἐστηώς· τοῖον οἱ ἀπέπνεε λείψανα δαιτός.
 αὐτίκα δ' εἰσαΐων ἐνοπὴν καὶ δοῦπον ὀμίλου
 τούσδ' αὐτοὺς παριόντας ἐπήμisen, ὧν οἱ ἰόντων
 θέσφατον ἐκ Διὸς ἦεν ἐῆς ἀπόνασθαι ἐδωδῆς.
 ὀρθωθείς δ' εὐνῆθεν, ἀκήριον ἡγύτ' ὄνειρον,
 βάκτρῳ σκηπτόμενος ῥικνοῖς ποσὶν ἦε θύραζε.
 τοίχους ἀμφαφών· τρέμε δ' ἄψα νισσομένοιο
 ἀδρανὴ γῆραι τε· πίνω δέ οἱ αὖσταλέος χρώς

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death, for in its fury it hangs over the middle of the ship, like a cloud, yet it sinks away into calm if it meets with a skilful helmsman. So they by the steering-craft of Tiphys escaped, unhurt but sore dismayed. And on the next day they fastened the hawsers to the coast opposite the Bithynian land.

There Phineus, son of Agenor, had his home by the sea, Phineus who above all men endured most bitter woes because of the gift of prophecy which Leto's son had granted him aforetime. And he revered not a whit even Zeus himself, for he foretold unerringly to men his sacred will. Wherefore Zeus sent upon him a lingering old age, and took from his eyes the pleasant light, and suffered him not to have joy of the dainties untold that the dwellers around ever brought to his house, when they came to enquire the will of heaven. But on a sudden, swooping through the clouds, the Harpies with their crooked beaks incessantly snatched the food away from his mouth and hands. And at times not a morsel of food was left, at others but a little, in order that he might live and be tormented. And they poured forth over all a loathsome stench; and no one dared not merely to carry food to his mouth but even to stand at a distance; so foully reeked the remnants of the meal. But straightway when he heard the voice and the tramp of the band he knew that they were the men passing by, at whose coming Zeus' oracle had declared to him that he should have joy of his food. And he rose from his couch, like a lifeless dream, bowed over his staff, and crept to the door on his withered feet, feeling the walls; and as he moved, his limbs trembled for weakness and age; and his parched skin was caked with dirt,

ἔσκληται, ῥινοὶ δὲ σὺν ὀστέα μόνον ἔεργον.
 ἐκ δ' ἔλθων μεγάροιο καθέζετο γούνα βαρυνθεὶς
 οὐδοῦ ἐπ' αὐλείοιο· κάρος δέ μιν ἀμφεκάλυψεν
 πορφύρεος, γαῖαν δὲ πέριξ ἐδόκησε φέρεσθαι
 νειόθεν, ἀβληχρῶ δ' ἐπὶ κώματι κέκλιτ' ἄναυδος.
 οἱ δέ μιν ὡς εἶδοντο, περισταδὸν ἡγέρεθοντο
 καὶ τάφον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖσι μάλα μόλις ἐξ ὑπάτοιο
 στήθεος ἀμπνεύσας μετεφώνεε μαντοσύνησιν·

‘Κλύτε, Πανελλήνων προφερέστατοι, εἰ ἐτεὸν δὴ
 οἶδ' ὑμεῖς, οὓς δὴ κρυερῇ βασιλῆος ἐφετμῇ 210
 Ἀργώης ἐπὶ νηὸς ἄγει μετὰ κῶας Ἰήσων.
 ὑμεῖς ἀτρεκέως· ἔτι μοι νόος οἶδεν ἕκαστα
 ἦσι θεοπροπίησι. χάριν νύ τοι, ὦ ἄνα, Λητοῦς
 νιέ, καὶ ἀργαλέοισιν ἀνάπτομαι ἐν καμάτοισιν.
 Ἰκεσίου πρὸς Ζηνός, ὅτις ῥίγιστος ἀλιτροῖς
 ἀνδράσι, Φοῖβου τ' ἀμφὶ καὶ αὐτῆς εἵνεκεν Ἥρης
 λίσσομαι, ἥ περιάλλα θεῶν μέμβλεσθε κιόντες,
 χραίσμετέ μοι, ῥύσασθε δυσάμμορον ἀνέρα λύμης,
 μηδέ μ' ἀκηδείησιν ἀφορμήθητε λιπόντες
 αὐτῶς. οὐ γὰρ μόνον ἐπ' ὀφθαλμοῖσιν Ἑρινὺς 220
 λαῖξ ἐπέβη, καὶ γῆρας ἀμήρυτον ἐς τέλος ἔλκω·
 πρὸς δ' ἔτι πικρότατον κρέμαται κακὸν ἄλλο
 κακοῖσιν.

Ἄρπυιαι στόματός μοι ἀφαρπάζουσιν ἐδωδὴν
 ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο καταΐσσουσai ὀλέθρου.
 ἴσχω δ' οὔτινα μῆτιν ἐπίρροθον. ἀλλὰ κε ρεῖα
 αὐτὸς ἐὼν λελάθοιμι νόον δόρποιο μεμηλώς,
 ἢ κείνας· ὧδ' αἶψα διήρεια ποτέονται.
 τυτθὸν δ' ἦν ἄρα δήποτ' ἐδητύος ἄμμι λίπωσιν,
 πνεῖ τόδε μυδαλέον τε καὶ οὐ τλητὸν μένος ὀδμῆς·
 οὐ κέ τις οὐδὲ μίνυνθα βροτῶν ἀνσχοιτο πελάσσας. 230
 οὐδ' εἴ οἱ ἀδάμαντος ἐληλάμενον κέαρ εἴη.

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and naught but the skin held his bones together. And he came forth from the hall with wearied knees and sat on the threshold of the courtyard; and a dark stupor covered him, and it seemed that the earth reeled round beneath his feet, and he lay in a strengthless trance, speechless. But when they saw him they gathered round and marvelled. And he at last drew laboured breath from the depths of his chest and spoke among them with prophetic utterance:

“Listen, bravest of all the Hellenes, if it be truly ye, whom by a king’s ruthless command Jason is leading on the ship *Argo* in quest of the fleece. It is ye truly. Even yet my soul by its divination knows everything. Thanks I render to thee, O king, son of *Leto*, plunged in bitter affliction though I be. I beseech you by *Zeus* the god of suppliants, the sternest foe to sinful men, and for the sake of *Phoebus* and *Hera* herself, under whose especial care ye have come hither, help me, save an ill-fated man from misery, and depart not uncaring and leaving me thus as ye see. For not only has the *Fury* set her foot on my eyes and I drag on to the end a weary old age; but besides my other woes a woe hangs over me—the bitterest of all. The *Harpies*, swooping down from some unseen den of destruction, ever snatch the food from my mouth. And I have no device to aid me. But it were easier, when I long for a meal, to escape my own thoughts than them, so swiftly do they fly through the air. But if haply they *do* leave me a morsel of food it reeks of decay and the stench is unendurable, nor could any mortal bear to draw near even for a moment, no, not if his heart were wrought of adamant. But necessity,

ἀλλά με πικρὴ δῆτα καὶ ἄατος ἴσχει¹ ἀνάγκη
 μίμνειν καὶ μίμνοντα κακῇ ἐν γαστέρι θέσθαι.
 τὰς μὲν θέσφατόν ἐστιν ἐρητῦσαι Βορέας
 υἱέας. οὐδ' ὀθνεῖοι ἀλαλκήσουσιν ἔόντες,
 εἰ δὴ ἐγὼν ὁ πρὶν ποτ' ἐπικλυτὸς ἀνδράσι Φινεύς
 ὄλβῳ μαντοσύνη τε, πατήρ δέ με γείνατ' Ἀγήνωρ·
 τῶν δὲ κασιγνήτην, ὅτ' ἐνὶ Θρήκεσσιν ἀνασσον,
 Κλειοπάτρην ἔδνοισιν ἐμὸν δόμον ἦγον ἄκοιτιν.'

Ἴσκειν Ἀγηνορίδης· ἀδινὸν δ' ἔλε κῆδος ἕκαστον 24
 ἡρώων, πέρι δ' αὖτε δύω υἱας Βορέας.
 δάκρυ δ' ὁμορξαμένῳ σχεδὸν ἤλυθον, ὧδέ τ' εἶπεν
 Ζήτης, ἀσχαλόωντος ἐλὼν χερὶ χεῖρα γέροντος·

Ἦ δα δαίλ', οὔτινά φημι σέθεν σμυγερώτερον ἄλλον
 ἔμμεναι ἀνθρώπων. τί νύ τοι τόσα κῆδέ' ἀνῆπται;
 ἦ ῥα θεοὺς ὀλοῇσι παρήλιτες ἀφραδίῃσιν
 μαντοσύνας δεδαώς; τῷ τοι μέγα μνησιώωσιν;
 ἄμμι γε μὴν νοός ἐνδον ἀτύζεται ἱεμένοισιν
 χραϊσμεῖν, εἰ δὴ πρόχυν γέρας τόδε πάρθετο δαίμων
 νῶιν. ἀρίζηλοι γὰρ ἐπιχθονίοισιν ἐνιπαὶ 25
 ἀθανάτων. οὐδ' ἂν πρὶν ἐρητῦσαιμεν ἰούσας
 Ἀρπυίας, μάλα περ λελιημένοι, ἔστ' ἂν ὁμόσσης,
 μὴ μὲν τοῖό γ' ἔκητι θεοῖς ἀπὸ θυμοῦ ἔσεσθαι.'

Ὡς φάτο· τοῦ δ' ἰθὺς κενεὰς ὁ γεραιὸς ἀνέσχεν
 γλήνας ἀμπετάσας, καὶ ἀμείψατο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·

Σίγα· μή μοι ταῦτα νόῳ ἐνὶ βάλλεο, τέκνονι.
 ἴστω Λητοῦς υἱός, ὃ με πρόφρων ἐδίδαξεν
 μαντοσύνας· ἴστω δὲ δυσώνυμος, ἧ μ' ἔλαχεν, κῆρ

¹ καὶ ἄατος ἴσχει Kochly: καὶ δατὸς ἴσχει L: καὶ δαιτὸς ἴσχει G.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

bitter and insatiate, compels me to abide and abiding to put food in my cursèd belly. These pests, the oracle declares, the sons of Boreas shall restrain. And no strangers are they that shall ward them off, if indeed I am Phineus who was once renowned among men for wealth and the gift of prophecy, and if I am the son of my father Agenor; and, when I ruled among the Thracians, by my bridal gifts I brought home their sister Cleopatra to be my wife."

So spake Agenor's son; and deep sorrow seized each of the heroes, and especially the two sons of Boreas. And brushing away a tear they drew nigh, and Zetes spake as follows, taking in his own the hand of the grief-worn sire:

"Unhappy one, none other of men is more wretched than thou, methinks. Why upon thee is laid the burden of so many sorrows? Hast thou with baneful folly sinned against the gods through thy skill in prophecy? For this are they greatly wroth with thee? Yet our spirit is dismayed within us for all our desire to aid thee, if indeed the god has granted this privilege to us two. For plain to discern to men of earth are the reproofs of the immortals. And we will never check the Harpies when they come, for all our desire, until thou hast sworn that for this we shall not lose the favour of heaven."

Thus he spake; and towards him the aged sire opened his sightless eyes, and lifted them up and replied with these words:

"Be silent, store not up such thoughts in thy heart, my child. Let the son of Leto be my witness, he who of his gracious will taught me the lore of prophecy, and be witness the ill-starred doom which

καὶ τόδ' ἐπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἀλαδὺν νέφος, οἷθ' ὑπένερθεν
δαίμονες, οἳ μὴδ' ὧδε θανόντι περ εὐμενέοιεν,
ὥς οὐ τις θεόθεν χόλος ἔσσεται εἵνεκ' ἀρωγῆς.²⁶

Τὼ μὲν ἔπειθ' ὄρκοισιν ἀλαλκόμεναι μενέαινον.
αἶψα δὲ κουρότεροι πεπονθήατο δαῖτα γέροντι,
λοίσθιον Ἀρπυίησιν ἐλώριον· ἐγγύθι δ' ἄμφω
στήσαν, ἵνα ξιφέεσσιν ἐπεσσυμένας ἐλάσειαν.
καὶ δὴ τὰ πρῶτισθ' ὁ γέρων ἔψαυεν ἐδωδῆς·
αἱ δ' ἄφαρ ἡύτ' ἄελλαι ἀδευκέες, ἥ στεροπαὶ ὥς,
ἀπρόφατοι νεφέων ἐξάλμεναι ἐσσεύοντο
κλαγγῇ μαιμώωσαι ἐδητύος· οἳ δ' ἐσιδόντες
ἥρωες μεσσηγὺς ἀνίαχον· αἱ δ' ἄμ' αὐτῇ
πάντα καταβρόξασαι ὑπὲρ πόντοιο φέροντο
τῆλε παρέξ· ὁδμὴ δὲ δυσάσχετος αὐθι λέλειπτο.
τάων δ' αὖ κατόπισθε δύω νῆες Βορέας
φάσγαν' ἐπισχόμενοι πρόσσω¹ θεόν. ἐν γὰρ ἔηκεν
Ζεὺς μένος ἀκάματόν σφιν· ἀτὰρ Διὸς οὐ κεν
ἐπέσθην

νόσφιν, ἐπεὶ ζεφύροιο παραίσσεσκον ἀέλλας
αἰέν, ὅτ' ἐς Φινῆα καὶ ἐκ Φινῆος ἵοιεν.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ κνημοῖσι κύνες δεδαημένοι ἄγρης
ἢ αἰγας κεραοὺς ἢ ἐπρόκας ἰχνεύοντες
θείωσιν, τυτθὸν δὲ τιταινόμενοι μετόπισθεν
ἄκρης ἐν γενύεσσι μάτην ἀράβησαν ὀδόντας·
ὥς Ζήτης Κάλαις τε μάλα σχεδὸν αἰσσουντες
τάων ἀκροτάτησιν ἐπέχραον ἥλιθα χερσίν.
καὶ νύ κε δὴ σφ' ἀέκητι θεῶν διεδηλήσαντο
πολλὸν ἐκάς νήσοισιν ἐπὶ Πλωτῆσι κιχόντες,
εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ὠκέα Ἴρις ἴδεν, κατὰ δ' αἰθέρος ἄλτο
οὐρανόθεν, καὶ τοῖα παραιφαμένη κατέρυκεν·

¹ πρόσσω O. Schneider : ὀπίσω MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

possesses me and this dark cloud upon my eyes, and the gods of the underworld—and may their curse be upon me if I die perjured thus—no wrath from heaven will fall upon you two for your help to me.”

Then were those two eager to help him because of the oath. And quickly the younger heroes prepared a feast for the aged man, a last prey for the Harpies ; and both stood near him, to smite with the sword those pests when they swooped down. Scarcely had the aged man touched the food when they forthwith, like bitter blasts or flashes of lightning, suddenly darted from the clouds, and swooped down with a yell, fiercely craving for food ; and the heroes beheld them and shouted in the midst of their onrush ; but they at the cry devoured everything and sped away over the sea afar ; and an intolerable stench remained. And behind them the two sons of Boreas raising their swords rushed in pursuit. For Zeus imparted to them tireless strength ; but without Zeus they could not have followed, for the Harpies used ever to outstrip the blasts of the west wind when they came to Phineus and when they left him. And as when, upon the mountain-side, hounds, cunning in the chase, run in the track of hornèd goats or deer, and as they strain a little behind gnash their teeth upon the edge of their jaws in vain ; so Zetes and Calais rushing very near just grazed the Harpies in vain with their finger-tips. And assuredly they would have torn them to pieces, despite heaven's will, when they had overtaken them far off at the Floating Islands, had not swift Iris seen them and leapt down from the sky from heaven above, and checked them with these words :

‘Οὐ θέμις, ὦ νιείς Βορέω, ξιφέεσσιν ἐλάσσαι
 Ἄρπυϊας, μέγαλοιο Διὸς κύνας· ὄρκια δ’ αὐτὴ
 δώσω ἐγών, ὥς οὐ οἱ ἔτι χρίμψουσιν ἰοῦσαι.’

290

᾽Ως φαμένη λαιβὴν Στυγὸς ὤμοσεν, ἥτε θεοῖσιν
 ῥιγίστη πάντεσσιν ὀπιδνοτάτῃ τε τέτυκται,
 μὴ μὲν Ἀγηνορίδαο δόμοις ἔτι τάσδε πελάσσαι
 εἰσαῦτις Φινῆος, ἐπεὶ καὶ μόρσιμον ἦεν.

οἱ δ’ ὄκρῳ εἷξαντες ὑπέστρεφον ἄψ’ ἐπὶ νῆα
 σῶεσθαι. Στροφάδας δὲ μετακλείουσ’ ἄνθρωποι
 νήσους τοιοῦ γ’ ἔκητι, πάρος Πλωτὰς καλέοντες.

Ἄρπυιαι τ’ Ἰρίς τε διέτμαγεν. αἱ μὲν ἔδυσαν
 κευθμῶνα Κρήτης Μινώιδος· ἡ δ’ ἀνόρουσεν
 Οὐλυμπόνδε, θοῇσι μεταχρονίῃ πτερύγεσσιν.

300

Τόφρα δ’ ἀριστῆες πινόεν περὶ δέρμα γέροντος
 πάντῃ φοιβήσαντες ἐπικριδὸν ἱρεύσαντο
 μῆλα, τὰτ’ ἐξ’ Ἀμύκοιο λεηλασίας ἐκόμισσαν.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ μέγα δόρπον ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔθεντο
 δαίνυνθ’ ἐζόμενοι· σὺν δέ σφισι δαίνυτο Φινεὺς
 ἀρπαλέως, οἷόν τ’ ἐν ὀνείρασι θυμὸν ἰαίνων.
 ἔνθα δ’, ἐπεὶ δόρποιο κορέσσαντ’ ἠδὲ ποτῆτος,
 παννύχιοι Βορέω μένον νιέας ἐγρήσσοντες.
 αὐτὸς δ’ ἐν μέσσοισι παρ’ ἐσχάρῃ ἦστο γεραιὸς
 πείρατα ναυτιλίας ἐνέπων ἄνυσίν τε κελεύθου.

310

‘Κλυτὲ νυν. οὐ μὲν πάντα πέλει θέμις ὕμμι
 δαῆναι
 ἀτρεκές· ὅσσα δ’ ὄρωρε θεοῖς φίλον, οὐκ ἐπι-
 κεύσω.

ἁσάμην καὶ πρόσθε Διὸς νόον ἀφραδίῃσιν
 χρεῖων ἐξείης τε καὶ ἐς τέλος. ὥδε γὰρ αὐτὸς
 βούλεται ἀνθρώποις ἐπιδενέα θέσφατα φαίνειν
 μαντοσύνης, ἵνα καὶ τι θεῶν χατέωσι νόοιο.

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“It is not lawful, O sons of Boreas, to strike with your swords the Harpies, the hounds of mighty Zeus ; but I myself will give you a pledge, that hereafter they shall not draw near to Phineus.”

With these words she took an oath by the waters of Styx, which to all the gods is most dread and most awful, that the Harpies would never thereafter again approach the home of Phineus, son of Agenor, for so it was fated. And the heroes yielding to the oath, turned back their flight to the ship. And on account of this men call them the Islands of Turning though aforetime they called them the Floating Islands. And the Harpies and Iris parted. They entered their den in Minoan Crete ; but she sped up to Olympus, soaring aloft on her swift wings.

Meanwhile the chiefs carefully cleansed the old man's squalid skin and with due selection sacrificed sheep which they had borne away from the spoil of Amycus. And when they had laid a huge supper in the hall, they sat down and feasted, and with them feasted Phineus ravenously, delighting his soul, as in a dream. And there, when they had taken their fill of food and drink, they kept awake all night waiting for the sons of Boreas. And the aged sire himself sat in the midst, near the hearth, telling of the end of their voyage and the completion of their journey :

“Listen then. Not everything is it lawful for you to know clearly ; but whatever is heaven's will, I will not hide. I was infatuated aforetime, when in my folly I declared the will of Zeus in order and to the end. For he himself wishes to deliver to men the utterances of the prophetic art incomplete, in order that they may still have some need to know the will of heaven.

‘ Πέτρας μὲν πάμπρωτον, ἀφορμηθέντες ἐμεῖο,
Κυανέας ὄψεσθε δὺν ἀλὸς ἐν ξυνοχῇσιν,
τάων οὐτινά φημι διαμπερὲς ἐξαλέασθαι.
οὐ γάρ τε ῥίζησιν ἐρήρηνται νεάτησιν,
ἀλλὰ θαμὰ ξυνίασιν ἐναντίαι ἀλλήλησιν
εἰς ἓν, ὕπερθε δὲ πολλὸν ἀλὸς κορθύεται ὕδωρ
βρασσόμενον· στρηνὲς δὲ περὶ στυφελῇ βρέμει
ἀκτῇ.

320

τῷ νῦν ἡμετέρησι παραιφασίησι πίθεσθε,
εἰ ἔτεον πυκινῷ τε νόῳ μακάρων τ’ ἀλέγοντες
πείρετε· μῆδ’ αὐτῶς αὐτάγρετον οἶτον ὀλησθε
ἀφραδέως, ἣ θύνετ’ ἐπισπόμενοι νεότητι.
οἴωνῷ δὴ πρόσθε πελειάδι πειρήσασθαι
νηὸς ἄπο προμεθέντες ἐφίεμεν. ἦν δὲ δι’ αὐτῶν
πετράων πόντονδε σόη πτερύγεσσι δίηται,
μηκέτι δὴν μῆδ’ αὐτοὶ ἐρητύεσθε κελεύθου,
ἀλλ’ εὖ καρτύναντες ἑαῖς ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐρετμὰ
τέμνεθ’ ἀλὸς στενωπόν· ἐπεὶ φάος οὐ νύ τι τύσσει
ἔσσετ’ ἐν εὐχολῇσιν, ὅσον τ’ ἐνὶ κάρτεϊ χειρῶν.
τῷ καὶ τὰλλα μεθέντες ὀνήιστον πονέεσθαι
θαρσαλέως. πρὶν δ’ οὔτι θεοὺς λίσσεσθαι ἐρύκω.
εἰ δέ κεν ἀντικρὺ παταμένη μεσσηγὺς ὀληται,
ἄψορροι στέλλεσθαι· ἐπεὶ πολὺ βέλτερον εἶξαι
ἀθανάτοις. οὐ γάρ κε κακὸν μόνον ἐξαλείψετε
πετράων, οὐδ’ εἴ κε σιδηρεῖη πέλοι Ἀργώ.

330

340

‘ ὦ μέλεσι, μὴ τλῆτε παρὲξ ἐμὰ θέσφατα βῆναι,
εἰ καὶ με τρὶς τόσσον ὀίεσθ’ Οὐρανίδησιν,
ὅσσον ἀνάρσιός εἰμι, καὶ εἰ πλείον στυγέεσθαι·
μὴ τλῆτ’ οἴωνοιο πάρεξ ἔτι νηὶ περῆσαι.
καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς κε πέλη, τῶς ἔσσεται. ἦν δὲ φύγητε
σύνδρομα πετράων ἀσκηθείς ἐνδοθι Πόντου,
αὐτίκα Βιθυνῶν ἐπὶ δεξιὰ γαίαν ἔχοντες

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

“First of all, after leaving me, ye will see the twin Cyanean rocks where the two seas meet. No one, I ween, has won his escape between them. For they are not firmly fixed with roots beneath, but constantly clash against one another to one point, and above a huge mass of salt water rises in a crest, boiling up, and loudly dashes upon the hard beach. Wherefore now obey my counsel, if indeed with prudent mind and reverencing the blessed gods ye pursue your way; and perish not foolishly by a self-sought death, or rush on following the guidance of youth. First entrust the attempt to a dove when ye have sent her forth from the ship. And if she escapes safe with her wings between the rocks to the open sea, then no more do ye refrain from the path, but grip your oars well in your hands and cleave the sea’s narrow strait, for the light of safety will be not so much in prayer as in strength of hands. Wherefore let all else go and labour boldly with might and main, but ere then implore the gods as ye will, I forbid you not. But if she flies onward and perishes midway, then do ye turn back; for it is better to yield to the immortals. For ye could not escape an evil doom from the rocks, not even if Argo were of iron.

“O hapless ones, dare not to transgress my divine warning, even though ye think that I am thrice as much hated by the sons of heaven as I am, and even more than thrice; dare not to sail further with your ship in despite of the omen. And as these things will fall, so shall they fall. But if ye shun the clashing rocks and come scatheless inside Pontus, straightway keep the land of the Bithynians on your

πλώετε ῥηγμίνας πεφυλαγμένοι, εἰσόκεν αὐτε
 Ῥήβαν ὠκυρόην ποταμὸν ἄκρην τε Μέλαιναν
 γνάμψαντες νήσου Θυνηίδος ὄρμον ἵκησθε. 350
 κείθεν δ' οὐ μάλα πούλῃ διεξ ἁλὸς ἀντιπέραιαν
 γῆν Μαριανδυνῶν ἐπικέλσετε νοστήσαντες.
 ἔνθα μὲν εἰς Ἀίδαο καταιβάτις ἐστὶ κέλευθος,
 ἄκρην τε προβλῆς Ἀχερουσιάς ὑψόθι τείνει,
 δινῆεις τ' Ἀχέρων αὐτὴν διὰ νειόθι τέμνων
 ἄκρην ἐκ μεγάλης προχοᾶς ἴσι φάραγγος.
 ἀγχίμολον δ' ἐπὶ τῇ πολέας παρανεῖσθε κολωνοὺς
 Παφλαγόνων, τοῖσιν τ' Ἑνετήιος ἐμβασίλευσεν
 πρῶτα Πέλοψ, τοῦ καὶ περ ἀφ' αἵματος εὐχετό-
 ωνται.

Ἔστι δέ τις ἄκρην Ἑλίκης κατεναντίον Ἀρκτου, 360
 πάντοθεν ἡλίβατος, καὶ μιν καλέουσι Κάραμβιν,
 τῆς καὶ ὑπὲρ βορέας περισχίζονται ἄελλαι·
 ὧδε μάλ' ἄμ πέλαγος τετραμμένη αἰθέρι κύρει.
 τήνδε περιγνάμψαντι πολὺς παρακέκλιται ἤδη
 Αἰγιαλός· πολέος δ' ἐπὶ πείρασιν Αἰγιαλοῖο
 ἀκτῇ ἐπὶ προβλῇτι ῥοαὶ Ἄλυσος ποταμοῖο
 δεινὸν ἐρεύνονται· μετὰ τὸν δ' ἀρχίρροος Ἴρις
 μειότερος λευκῇσιν ἐλίσσεται εἰς ἅλα δίναις.
 κείθεν δὲ προτέρωσε μέγας καὶ ὑπείροχος ἀγκῶν
 ἐξανέχει γαίης· ἐπὶ δὲ στόμα Θερμώδοντος 370
 κόλπῳ ἐν εὐδιόωντι Θेमίσκῦρειον ὑπ' ἄκρην
 μύρεται, εὐρείης διαειμένος ἡπείροιο.
 ἔνθα δὲ Δοϊάντος πεδίου, σχεδόθεν δὲ πόλῃς
 τρισσαὶ Ἀμαζονίδων, μετὰ τε σμυγερώτατοι
 ἀνδρῶν

τρηχεῖαν Χάλυβες καὶ ἀτειρέα γαῖαν ἔχουσιν,
 ἐργατῖναι· τοὶ δ' ἀμφὶ σιδήρεα ἔργα μέλονται.
 ἀγχὶ δὲ ναιετάουσι πολύρρηνες Τιβαρηνοὶ

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right and sail on, and beware of the breakers, until ye round the swift river Rhebas and the black beach, and reach the harbour of the Isle of Thynias. Thence ye must turn back a little space through the sea and beach your ship on the land of the Mariandyni lying opposite. Here is a downward path to the abode of Hades, and the headland of Acherusia stretches aloft, and eddying Acheron cleaves its way at the bottom, even through the headland, and sends its waters forth from a huge ravine. And near it ye will sail past many hills of the Paphlagonians, over whom at the first Æneteian Pelops reigned, and of his blood they boast themselves to be.

“Now there is a headland opposite Helice the Bear, steep on all sides, and they call it Carambis, about whose crests the blasts of the north wind are sundered. So high in the air does it rise turned towards the sea. And when ye have rounded it broad Aegialus stretches before you; and at the end of broad Aegialus, at a jutting point of coast, the waters of the river Halys pour forth with a terrible roar; and after it Iris flowing near, but smaller in stream, rolls into the sea with white eddies. Onward from thence the bend of a huge and towering cape reaches out from the land, next Thermodon at its mouth flows into a quiet bay at the Themiscyreian headland, after wandering through a broad continent. And here is the plain of Doeas, and near are the three cities of the Amazons, and after them the Chalybes, most wretched of men, possess a soil rugged and unyielding—sons of toil, they busy themselves with working iron. And near them dwell the Tibareni, rich in sheep, beyond the

Ζηνὸς Ἐυξείνοιο Γενηταίην ὑπὲρ ἄκρην.
 τῇ δ' ἐπὶ Μοσσύνοικοι ὁμούριοι ὑλήεσαν
 ἐξείης ἡπειρον, ὑπωρείας τε νέμονται,
 δουρατέοις πύργοισιν ἐν οἰκία τεκτῆναντες¹
 κάλινα καὶ θαλάμους² εὐπηγέας, οὓς καλέουσιν
 μόσσυνας· καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπώνυμοι ἔνθεν ἔασιν.
 τοὺς παραμβέβηκεν λισσῇ ἐπικέλσετε νήσω,
 μήτι παντοίῃ μέγ' ἀναιδέας ἐξελάσαντες
 οἰωνούς, οἳ δῆθεν ἀπειρέσιοι ἐφέπουσιν
 νήσον ἐρημαίην. τῇ μὲν τ' ἐνὶ νηὸν Ἄρης
 λαΐνεον ποίησαν Ἀμαζονίδων βασιλειαί
 Ὀτρηρή τε καὶ Ἀντιόπη, ὅποτε στρατόωντο.
 ἔνθα γὰρ ὕμνιν ὄνειρα ἰδενκέος ἐξ ἁλὸς εἴσιν
 ἄρρητον· τῷ καὶ τε φίλα φρονέων ἀγορεύω
 ἰσχύμεν. ἀλλὰ τί με πάλιν χρεῖω ἀλιτέσθαι
 μαντοσύνη τὰ ἕκαστα διηνεκὲς ἐξενέποντα;
 νήσου δὲ προτέρωσε καὶ ἡπείροιο περαιῆς
 φέρβονται Φίλυρες· Φιλύρων δ' ἐφύπερθεν ἔασιν
 Μάκρωνες· μετὰ δ' αὖ περιώσια φύλα Βεχείρων.
 ἐξείης δὲ Σάπειρες ἐπὶ σφίσι ναιετάουσιν·
 Βύζηρες δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ὁμώλακες, ὧν ὑπὲρ ἤδη
 αὐτοὶ Κόλχοι ἔχονται ἀρήιοι. ἀλλ' ἐνὶ νηὶ
 πείρεθ', ἕως μυχάτη κεν ἐνιχρίμψητε θαλάσση.
 ἔνθα δ' ἐπ' ἡπείροιο Κυταιίδος, ἥδ' Ἀμαραντῶν
 τηλόθεν ἐξ ὁρέων πεδίοιο τε Κιρκαίοιο
 Φᾶσις δινήεις εὐρὺν ῥόον εἰς ἄλλα βάλλει.
 κείνου νῆ' ἐλάοντες ἐπὶ προχοᾷς ποταμοῖο
 πύργους εἰσόψεσθε Κυταιέος Αἰήταο,
 ἄλσος τε σκίοειν Ἄρεος, τόθι κῶας ἐπ' ἄκρης

¹ After this line Brunck omitted the next two lines and since his time they have not been counted.

² θαλάμους Merkel : πύργους MSS.

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Genetaean headland of Zeus, lord of hospitality. And bordering on it the Mossynoeci next in order inhabit the well-wooded mainland and the parts beneath the mountains, who have built in towers made from trees their wooden homes and well-fitted chambers, which they call Mossynes, and the people themselves take their name from them. After passing them ye must beach your ship upon a smooth island, when ye have driven away with all manner of skill the ravening birds, which in countless numbers haunt the desert island. In it the Queens of the Amazons, Otrere and Antiope, built a stone temple of Ares what time they went forth to war. Now here an unspeakable help will come to you from the bitter sea ; wherefore with kindly intent I bid you stay. But what need is there that I should sin yet again declaring everything to the end by my prophetic art ? And beyond the island and opposite mainland dwell the Philyres : and above the Philyres are the Macrones, and after them the vast tribes of the Becheiri. And next in order to them dwell the Sapeires, and the Byzeres have the lands adjoining to them, and beyond them at last live the warlike Colchians themselves. But speed on in your ship, till ye touch the inmost bourne of the sea. And here at the Cytaean mainland and from the Amarantine mountains far away and the Circaean plain, eddying Phasis rolls his broad stream to the sea. Guide your ship to the mouth of that river and ye shall behold the towers of Cytaean Aeetes and the shady grove of Ares, where a dragon, a monster

πεπτάμενον φηγοῖο δράκων, τέρας αἶνόν ιδέσθαι,
ἀμφὶς ὀπιπεύει δεδοκημένος· οὐδέ οἱ ἦμαρ,
οὐ κνέφας ἡδυμος ὕπνος ἀναιδέα δάμναται ὅσσε·

ᾧ ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη· τοὺς δ' εἶθαρ ἔλεν δέος εἰσαΐοντας.
δὴν δ' ἔσαν ἀμφασίῃ βεβολημένοι· ὁψὲ δ' ἔειπεν
ἥρως Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἀμηχανέων κακότητι

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ᾧ ὦ γέρον, ἤδη μὲν τε διίκεο πείρατ' ἀέθλων
ναυτιλίας καὶ τέκμαρ, ὅτῳ στυγερὰς διὰ πέτρας
πειθόμενοι Πόντονδε περήσομεν· εἰ δέ κεν αὖτις
τάσδ' ἡμῖν προφυγοῦσιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα νόστος ὀπίσσω
ἔσσεται, ἀσπαστῶς κε παρὰ σέο καὶ τὸ δαεῖν.
πῶς ἔρδω, πῶς αὖτε τόσῃν ἀλὸς εἶμι κέλευθον,
νῆις ἐὼν ἐτάροις ἅμα νήισιν; Αἴα δὲ Κολχίς
Πόντου καὶ γαίης ἐπικέκλιται ἐσχατιῇσιν·

ᾧ ὣς φάτο· τὸν δ' ὁ γεραιὸς ἀμειβόμενος προσέ-
ειπεν·

ᾧ ὦ τέκος, εὖτ' ἂν πρῶτα φύγῃς ὀλοὰς διὰ πέτρας, 42
θάρσει· ἐπεὶ δαίμων ἕτερον πλόον ἡγεμονεύσει
ἐξ Αἴης· μετὰ δ' Αἴαν ἅλις πομπῆς ἔσονται.
ἀλλὰ, φίλοι, φράζεσθε θεᾶς δολόεσσαν ἀρωγὴν
Κύπριδος· ἐκ γὰρ τῆς κλυτὰ πείρατα κεῖται
ἀέθλων.

καὶ δέ με μηκέτι τῶνδε περαιτέρω ἐξερέεσθε·

ᾧ ὣς φάτ' Ἀγηνορίδης· ἐπὶ δὲ σχεδὸν νιέε δοιὼν
Θρηκίου Βορέας κατ' αἰθέρος αἰξάντε
οὐδῶ ἐπὶ κραιπνοὺς ἔβαλον πόδας· οἱ δ' ἀνόρουσαν
ἐξ ἐδέων ἥρωες, ὅπως παρεόντας ἴδοντο.
Ζήτης δ' ἰεμένοισιν, ἔτ' ἄσπετον ἐκ καμάτοιο
ἄσθμ' ἀναφυσιόων, μετεφώγειν, ὅσσοι ἄπωθεν
ἤλασαν, ἡδ' ὥς Ἴρις ἐρύκακε τάσδε δαΐξαι,

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terrible to behold, ever glares around, keeping watch over the fleece that is spread upon the top of an oak ; neither by day nor by night does sweet sleep subdue his restless eyes."

Thus he spake, and straightway fear seized them as they heard. And for a long while they were struck with silence ; till at last the hero, son of Aeson, spake, sore dismayed at their evil plight :

"O aged sire, now hast thou come to the end of the toils of our sea-journeying and hast told us the token, trusting to which we shall make our way to Pontus through the hateful rocks ; but whether, when we have escaped them, we shall have a return back again to Hellas, this too would we gladly learn from thee. What shall I do, how shall I go over again such a long path through the sea, unskilled as I am, with unskilled comrades ? And Colchian Aea lies at the edge of Pontus and of the world."

Thus he spake, and him the aged sire addressed in reply : "O son, when once thou has escaped through the deadly rocks, fear not ; for a deity will be the guide from Aea by another track ; and to Aea there will be guides enough. But, my friends, take thought of the artful aid of the Cyprian goddess. For on her depends the glorious issue of your venture. And further than this ask me not."

Thus spake Agenor's son, and close at hand the twin sons of Thracian Boreas came darting from the sky and set their swift feet upon the threshold ; and the heroes rose up from their seats when they saw them present. And Zetes, still drawing hard breath after his toil, spake among the eager listeners, telling them how far they had driven the Harpies and how Iris prevented their slaying them, and how the

ὄρκιά τ' εὐμενέουσα θεὰ πόρεν, αἱ δ' ὑπέδυσαν
 δείματι Δικταίης περιώσιον ἄντρον ἐρίπνης.
 γηθόσυνοι δ' ἤπειτα δόμοις ἐνὶ πάντες ἐταῖροι
 αὐτός τ' ἀγγελίῃ Φινεὺς πέλεν. ὦκα δὲ τόνγε
 Αἰσονίδης περιπολλὸν ἐνφρονέων προσέειπεν·

‘Ἡ ἄρα δὴ τις ἔην, Φινεῦ, θεός, ὃς σέθεν ἄτης
 κήδετο λευγαλέης, καὶ δ' ἡμέας αἰθι πέλασσευ
 τηλόθεν, ὄφρα τοι νῆες ἀμύνειαν Βορέας·
 εἰ δὲ καὶ ὀφθαλμοῖσι φόως πόροι, ἦ τ' ἂν οἶω
 γηθήσειν, ὅσον εἴπερ ὑπότροπος οἴκαδ' ἰκοίμην.’

‘Ὡς ἔφατ'· αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε κατηφήσας προσέειπεν·
 ‘Αἰσονίδη, τὸ μὲν οὐ παλινάγρετον, οὐδέ τι μῆχος
 ἔστ' ὀπίσω· κενεαὶ γὰρ ὑποσμύχονται ὀπωπαί.
 ἀντὶ δὲ τοῦ θανάτον μοι ἄφαρ θεὸς ἐγγυαλίζαι,
 καὶ τε θανὼν πάσῃσι μετέσσομαι ἀγλαΐῃσιν.’

‘Ὡς τώγ' ἀλλήλοισι παραβλήδην ἀγόρευον.
 αὐτίκα δ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἀμειβομένων ἐφαάιθη
 Ἥριγενής. τὸν δ' ἀμφὶ περικτίται ἡγερέθοντο
 ἀνέρες, οἳ καὶ πρόσθεν ἐπ' ἡματι κείσε θάμιζον,
 αἰὲν ὁμῶς φορέοντες ἐῆς ἀπὸ μοῖραν ἐδωδῆς.
 τοῖς ὁ γέρων πᾶν τεσσιν, ὅτις καὶ ἀφαιρὸς ἴκοιτο,
 ἔχραεν ἐνδυκέως, πολέων δ' ἀπὸ πῆματ' ἔλυσεν
 μαντοσύνη· τῷ καὶ μιν ἐποιχόμενοι κομέεσκον.
 σὺν τοῖσιν δ' ἴκανε Παραίβιος, ὃς ῥά οἱ ἦεν
 φίλτατος· ἀσπᾶσιος δὲ δόμοις ἐνὶ τούσγ' ἐνέησεν.
 πρὶν γὰρ δὴ νῦ ποτ' αὐτὸς ἀριστήων στόλον ἀνδρῶν
 Ἑλλάδος ἐξανιόντα μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο
 πείσματ' ἀνάφασθαι μυθήσατο Θυνίδι γαίῃ,
 οἵτε οἱ Ἀρπυίας Διόθεν σχήσουσιν ἰούσας.

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goddess of her grace gave them pledges, and how those others in fear plunged into the vast cave of the Dictæan cliff. Then in the mansion all their comrades were joyful at the tidings and so was Phineus himself. And quickly Aeson's son, with good will exceeding, addressed him :

"Assuredly there was then, Phineus, some god who cared for thy bitter woe, and brought us hither from afar, that the sons of Boreas might aid thee ; and if too he should bring sight to thine eyes, verily I should rejoice, methinks, as much as if I were on my homeward way."

Thus he spake, but Phineus replied to him with downcast look : " Son of Aeson, that is past recall, nor is there any remedy hereafter, for blasted are my sightless eyes. But instead of that, may the god grant me death at once, and after death I shall take my share in perfect bliss."

Then they two returned answering speech, each to other, and soon in the midst of their converse early dawn appeared ; and round Phineus were gathered the neighbours who used to come thither aforetime day by day and constantly bring a portion of their food. To all alike, however poor he was that came, the aged man gave his oracles with good will, and freed many from their woes by his prophetic art ; wherefore they visited and tended him. And with them came Paraebius, who was dearest to him, and gladly did he perceive these strangers in the house. For long ere now the seer himself had said that a band of chieftains, faring from Hellas to the city of Aetes, would make fast their hawsers to the Thynian land, and by Zeus' will would check the approach of the Harpies. The rest the old man

τοὺς μὲν ἔπειτ' ἐπέεσσιν ἀρεσσάμενος πυκινοῖσιν
πέμφ' ὁ γέρων· οἶον δὲ Παραίβιον αὐτόθι μῖμνεν
κέκλετ' ἀριστήεσσι σὺν ἀνδράσιν· αἶψα δὲ τόνγε
σφωιτέρων οἶων ὅτις ἔξοχος, εἰς ἔ κομίσσαι
ἦκεν ἐποτρύνας. τοῦ δ' ἐκ μεγάροιο κιόντος
μειλιχίως ἐρέτησιν ὀμηγερέεσσι μετηύδα·

‘Ω φίλοι, οὐκ ἄρα πάντες ὑπέρβιοι ἄνδρες
ἔασιν,

οὐδ' εὐεργεσίης ἀμνήμονες. ὥς καὶ ὅδ' ἀνὴρ
τοῖος ἐὼν δεῦρ' ἦλθεν, ἐὼν μόρον ὄφρα δαείη.
εὔτε γὰρ οὖν ὥς πλεῖστα κάμοι καὶ πλεῖστα
μογήσαι,

δὴ τότε μιν περιπολλὸν ἐπασσυτέρη βιότοιο
χρησμοσύνη τρύχεσκεν· ἐπ' ἡματι δ' ἡμαρ ὀρώρει
κύντερον, οὐδέ τις ἦεν ἀνάπνευσις μογέοντι.

ἀλλ' ὄγε πατρὸς ἐοῖο κακὴν τίνεσκειν ἀμοιβὴν
ἀμπλακίης. ὁ γὰρ οἶος ἐν οὔρεσι δένδρεα τέμνων
δὴ ποθ' ἀμαδρυνάδος νύμφης ἀθέριξε λιτάων,
ἢ μιν ὀδυρομένη ἀδινῶ μειλίσσετο μύθῳ,
μὴ ταμέειν πρέμνον δρυὸς ἡλικος, ἢ ἐπὶ πουλὺν
αἰῶνα τρίβεσκε διηνεκές· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε
ἀφραδέως ἔτμηξεν ἀγνηορίῃ νεότητος.

τῷ δ' ἄρα νηκερδῇ νύμφη πόρεν οἶτον ὀπίσσω
αὐτῷ καὶ τεκέεσσιν. ἔγωγε μὲν, εὖτ' ἀφίκανεν,
ἀμπλακίην ἔγνων· βωμὸν δ' ἐκέλευσα καμόντα
Θυνιάδος νύμφης, λωφῆια ῥέξαι ἐπ' αὐτῷ
ιέρα, πατρώην αἰτεύμενον αἶσαν ἀλύξαι.

ἔνθ' ἐπεὶ ἔκφυγε κῆρα θεήλατον, οὐποτ' ἐμείο
ἐκλάθετ', οὐδ' ἀθέριξε· μόλις δ' ἀέκοντα θύραζε
πέμπω, ἐπεὶ μέμονέν γε παρέμμεναι ἀσχαλόωντι.

‘Ὡς φάτ' Ἀγνηορίδης· ὁ δ' ἐπισχεδὼν αὐτίκα δοιὼ
ἤλυθ' ἄγων ποίμνηθεν οἷς. ἀνὰ δ' ἴστατ' Ἰήσων,

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pleased with words of wisdom and let them go ;
Paraebius only he bade remain there with the chiefs ;
and straightway he sent him and bade him bring
back the choicest of his sheep. And when he had
left the hall Phineus spake gently amid the throng
of oarsmen :

“ O my friends, not all men are arrogant, it seems,
nor unmindful of benefits. Even as this man, loyal
as he is, came hither to learn his fate. For when he
laboured the most and toiled the most, then the needs
of life, ever growing more and more, would waste him,
and day after day ever dawned more wretched, nor
was there any respite to his toil. But he was paying
the sad penalty of his father's sin. For he when alone
on the mountains, felling trees, once slighted the
prayers of a Hamadryad, who wept and sought to
soften him with plaintive words, not to cut down the
stump of an oak tree coeval with herself, wherein for
a long time she had lived continually ; but he in the
arrogance of youth recklessly cut it down. So to
him the nymph thereafter made her death a curse, to
him and to his children. I indeed knew of the sin
when he came ; and I bid him build an altar to the
Thynian nymph, and offer on it an atoning sacrifice,
with prayer to escape his father's fate. Here, ever
since he escaped the god-sent doom, never has he
forgotten or neglected me ; but sorely and against
his will do I send him from my doors, so eager is he
to remain with me in my affliction.”

Thus spake Agenor's son ; and his friend straight-
way came near leading two sheep from the flock.

ἂν δὲ Βορήιοι νῆες ἐφημοσύνησι γέροντος.
 ὦκα δὲ κεκλόμενοι μαντήιον Ἀπόλλωνα
 ῥέζον ἐπ' ἐσχαρόφιν νέον ἡματος ἀνομένοιο.
 κουρότεροι δ' ἐτάρων μενοεικέα δαῖτ' ἀλέγυνον.
 ἔνθ' εὖ δαισάμενοι, τοὶ μὲν παρὰ πείσμασι νηός,
 τοὶ δ' αὐτοῦ κατὰ δώματ' ἀολλέες εὐνάζοντο.
 ἦρι δ' ἐτήσiai αὖραι ἐπέχραον, αἴτ' ἀνὰ πᾶσαν
 γαίαν ὁμῶς τοιῇδε Διὸς πνείουσιν ἀνωγῇ.

Κυρήνη πέφαται τις ἔλος πάρα Πηνηιοῖο
 μῆλα νέμειν προτέροισι παρ' ἀνδράσιν· εὐαδε γάρ
 οἱ

παρθενίη καὶ λέκτρον ἀκήρατον. αὐτὰρ Ἀπόλλων
 τήνγ' ἀνερειψάμενος ποταμῷ ἔπι ποιμαίνουσιν
 τηλόθεν Αἰμονίης, χθονίαις παρακάτθετο νύμφαις,
 αἱ Λιβύην ἐνέμοντο παρὰ Μύρτωσιον αἶψος.
 ἔνθα δ' Ἀρισταῖον Φοῖβω τέκεν, ὃν καλέουσιν
 Ἀγρέα καὶ Νόμιον πολυλήιοι Αἰμονιῆς.
 τὴν μὲν γὰρ φιλότητι θεὸς ποιήσατο νύμφην
 αὐτοῦ μακραίωνα καὶ ἀγρότιν· νῆα δ' ἐνείκειν
 νηπίαχον Χείρωνος ὑπ' ἄντροισιν κομέεσθαι.
 τῷ καὶ ἀεξηθέντι θεαὶ γάμον ἐμνήστευσαν
 Μοῦσαι, ἀκεστορίην τε θεοπροπίας τ' ἐδίδαξαν·
 καὶ μιν ἑὼν μῆλων θέσαν ἥρανον, ὅσος ἐνέμοντο
 ἄμ πεδίον Φθίης Ἀθαμάντιον ἀμφί τ' ἐρυμνὴν
 Ὀθρυν καὶ ποταμοῦ ἱερὸν ῥόον Ἀπιδανοῖο.
 ἦμος δ' οὐρανόθεν Μινωίδας ἔφλεγε νήσους
 Σείριος, οὐδ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἔην ἄκος ἐνναέτησιν,
 τῆμος τόνγ' ἐκάλεσαν ἐφημοσύναις Ἑκάτοιο
 λοιμοῦ ἀλεξητῆρα. λίπεν δ' ὄγε πατὴρ ἐφετμῇ
 Φθίην, ἐν δὲ Κέφῳ κατενάσσατο, λαὸν ἀγείρας

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And up rose Jason and up rose the sons of Boreas at the bidding of the aged sire. And quickly they called upon Apollo, lord of prophecy, and offered sacrifice upon the hearth as the day was just sinking. And the younger comrades made ready a feast to their hearts' desire. Thereupon having well feasted they turned themselves to rest, some near the ship's hawsers, others in groups throughout the mansion. And at dawn the Etesian winds blew strongly, which by the command of Zeus blow over every land equally.

Cyrene, the tale goes, once tended sheep along the marsh-meadow of Peneus among men of old time; for dear to her were maidenhood and a couch unstained. But, as she guarded her flock by the river, Apollo carried her off far from Haemonia and placed her among the nymphs of the land, who dwelt in Libya near the Myrtosian height. And here to Phoebus she bore Aristaeus whom the Haemonians, rich in corn-land, call "Hunter" and "Shepherd." Her, of his love, the god made a nymph there, of long life and a huntress, and his son he brought while still an infant to be nurtured in the cave of Cheiron. And to him when he grew to manhood the Muses gave a bride, and taught him the arts of healing and of prophecy; and they made him the keeper of their sheep, of all that grazed on the Athamantian plain of Phthia and round steep Othrys and the sacred stream of the river Apidanus. But when from heaven Sirius scorched the Minoan Isles, and for long there was no respite for the inhabitants, then by the injunction of the Far-Darter they summoned Aristaeus to ward off the pestilence. And by his father's command he left Phthia and made his home

Παρράσιον, τοίπερ τε Λυκάονός εἰσι γενέθλης,
καὶ βωμὸν ποίησε μέγαν Διὸς Ἰκμαίοιο,
ἱερά τ' εὖ ἔρρεξεν ἐν οὖρεσιν ἀστέρι κείνῳ
Σειρίῳ αὐτῷ τε Κρονίδῃ Δί. τοιοῦ δ' ἔκητι
γαῖαν ἐπιψύχουσιν ἐτήσiai ἐκ Διὸς αὔραι
ἥματα τεσσαράκοντα· Κέῳ δ' ἔτι νῦν ἱερῆς
ἀντολέων προπάροιθε Κυνὸς ῥέζουσι θυηλάς.

Καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς ὑδέονται· ἀριστῆες δὲ καταῦθι
μῖνον ἐρυκόμενοι· ξεινῆια δ' ἄσπετα Θυνοὶ
πάν ἡμαρ Φινῇ χαριζόμενοι προῖαλλον.
ἐκ δὲ τόθεν μακάρεσσι δυνώδεκα δωμήσαντες
βωμὸν ἀλὸς ῥηγμῖνι πέρην καὶ ἐφ' ἱερά θέντες,
νῆα θοὴν εἴσβαινον ἐρεσσέμεν, οὐδὲ πελείης
τρῆρωνος λήθοντο μετὰ σφίσιν· ἀλλ' ἄρα τήνγε
δείματι πεπτηνῖαν ἐῆ φέρε χειρὶ μεμαρπῶς
Εὐφημος, γαίης δ' ἀπὸ διπλόα πείσματ' ἔλυσαν.

Οὐδ' ἄρ' Ἀθηναίην προτέρω λάθον ὀρμηθέντες·
αὐτίκα δ' ἐσσυμένως νεφέλης ἐπιβᾶσα πόδεσσιν
κούφης, ἥ κε φέροι μιν ἄφαρ βριαρὴν περ ἐοῦσαν,
σεύατ' ἵμεν πόντονδε, φίλα φρονέουσ' ἐρέτησιν.
ὥς δ' ὅτε τις πάτρηθεν ἀλῶμενος, οἴα τε πολλὰ
πλαζόμεθ' ἄνθρωποι τετληότες, οὐδέ τις αἶα
τηλουρός, πᾶσαι δὲ κατόψιοί εἰσι κέλευθοι,
σφωιτέρους δ' ἐνόησε δόμους, ἄμυδις δὲ κέλευθος
ὑγρὴ τε τραφερὴ τ' ἰνδάλλεται, ἄλλοτε δ' ἄλλη
ὀξέα πορφύρων ἐπιμαίεται ὀφθαλμοῖσιν·
ὥς ἄρα καρπαλίμως κούρη Διὸς αἴξασα
θῆκεν ἐπ' ἀξείνοιο πόδας Θυνηίδος ἀκτῆς.

Οἱ δ' ὅτε δὴ σκολιοῖο πόρου στενωπὸν ἵκοντο
τρηχέης σπιλάδεσσιν ἐργόμενον ἀμφοτέρωθεν,
δινῆεις δ' ὑπένερθεν ἀνακλύζεσκεν ἰοῦσαν

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in Ceos, and gathered together the Parrhasian people who are of the lineage of Lycaon, and he built a great altar to Zeus Icmæus, and duly offered sacrifices upon the mountains to that star Sirius, and to Zeus son of Cronos himself. And on this account it is that Etesian winds from Zeus cool the land for forty days, and in Ceos even now the priests offer sacrifices before the rising of the Dog-star.

So the tale is told, but the chieftains stayed there by constraint, and every day the Thynians, doing pleasure to Phineus, sent them gifts beyond measure. And afterwards they raised an altar to the blessed twelve on the sea-beach opposite and laid offerings thereon and then entered their swift ship to row, nor did they forget to bear with them a trembling dove; but Euphemus seized her and brought her all quivering with fear, and they loosed the twin hawsers from the land.

Nor did they start unmarked by Athena, but straightway swiftly she set her feet on a light cloud, which would waft her on, mighty though she was, and she swept on to the sea with friendly thoughts to the oarsmen. And as when one roveeth far from his native land, as we men often wander with enduring heart, nor is any land too distant but all ways are clear to his view, and he sees in mind his own home, and at once the way over sea and land seems plain, and swiftly thinking, now this way, now that, he strains with eager eyes; so swiftly the daughter of Zeus darted down and set her foot on the cheerless shore of Thynia.

Now when they reached the narrow strait of the winding passage, hemmed in on both sides by rugged cliffs, while an eddying current from below was

νῆα ῥόος, πολλὸν δὲ φόβῳ προτέρωσε νέοντο,
ἤδη δὲ σφισι δοῦπος ἀρασσομένων πετράων
νωλεμές οὐατ' ἔβαλλε, βόων δ' ἄλιμυρές ἀκταί,
δὴ τότ' ἔπειθ' ὁ μὲν ὦρτο πελειάδα χειρὶ μεμαρ-
πῶς

Εὐφημος πρῶρης ἐπιβήμεναι· οἱ δ' ὑπ' ἀνωγῇ
Τίφυος Ἀγνιδάο θελήμονα ποιήσαντο
εἰρεσίην, ἵν' ἔπειτα διέκ πέτρας ἐλάσειαν,
κάρτεϊ ᾧ πίσυνοι. τὰς δ' αὐτίκα λοίσθιον ἄλλων
οἰγομένας ἀγκῶνα περιγνάμψαντες ἴδοντο. 560
σὺν δὲ σφιν χύτο θυμός· ὁ δ' αἶξαι πτερύγεσσι
Εὐφημος προέηκε πελειάδα· τοὶ δ' ἅμα πάντες
ἤειραν κεφαλὰς ἐσορώμενοι· ἡ δὲ δι' αὐτῶν
ἔπατο· ταὶ δ' ἄμυδις πάλιν ἀντίαι ἀλλήλησιν
ἄμφω ὁμοῦ ξυνιούσαι ἐπέκτυπον. ὦρτο δὲ πολλή
ἄλμη ἀναβρασθεῖσα, νέφος ὥς· αὖτε δὲ πόντος
σμερδαλέον· πάντη δὲ περὶ μέγας ἔβρεμεν αἰθήρ.

Κοῖλαι δὲ σπήλυγγες ὑπὸ σπιλάδας τρηχείας
κλυζούσης ἀλὸς ἔνδον ἐβόμβεον· ὑψόθι δ' ὄχθης
λευκὴ καχλάζοντος ἀνέπτυε κύματος ἄχνη. 570
νῆα δ' ἔπειτα πέριξ εἴλει ῥόος. ἅκρα δ' ἔκοψαν
οὐραῖα πτερὰ ταίγε πελειάδος· ἡ δ' ἀπόρουσεν
ἀσκηθῆς. ἐρέται δὲ μέγ' ἰαχόν· ἔβραχε δ' αὐτὸς
Τίφυς ἐρεσσέμεναι κρατερῶς. οἷγοντο γὰρ αὐτὶς
ἄνδιχα. τοὺς δ' ἐλάοντας ἔχεν τρόμος, ὄφρα μιν
αὐτῇ

πλημμυρὶς παλίνορσος ἀνερχομένη κατένεικεν
εἴσω πετράων. τότε δ' αἰνότατον δέος εἶλεν
πάντας· ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς γὰρ ἀμήχανος ἦεν ὄλεθρος.
ἤδη δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα διὰ πλατὺς εἶδετο Πόντος,
καὶ σφισιν ἀπροφάτως ἀνέδυ μέγα κῦμα πάροιθεν 580
κυρτόν, ἀποτμήγι σκοπιῇ ἴσον· οἱ δ' ἐσιδόντες

can leap up

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washing against the ship as she moved on, they went forward sorely in dread; and now the thud of the crashing rocks ceaselessly struck their ears, and the sea-washed shores resounded, and then Euphemus grasped the dove in his hand and started to mount the prow; and they, at the bidding of Tiphys, son of Hagnias, rowed with good will to drive Argo between the rocks, trusting to their strength. And as they rounded a bend they saw the rocks opening for the last time of all. Their spirit melted within them; and Euphemus sent forth the dove to dart forward in flight; and they all together raised their heads to look; but she flew between them, and the rocks again rushed together and crashed as they met face to face. And the foam leapt up in a mass like a cloud; awful was the thunder of the sea; and all round them the mighty welkin roared.

The hollow caves beneath the rugged cliffs rumbled as the sea came surging in; and the white foam of the dashing wave spurted high above the cliff. Next the current whirled the ship round. And the rocks shore away the end of the dove's tail-feathers; but away she flew unscathed. And the rowers gave a loud cry; and Tiphys himself called to them to row with might and main. For the rocks were again parting asunder. But as they rowed they trembled, until the tide returning drove them back within the rocks. Then most awful fear seized upon all; for over their head was destruction without escape. And now to right and left broad Pontus was seen, when suddenly a huge wave rose up before them, arched, like a steep rock; and at the sight they bowed with bended heads. For it seemed

ἤμυσαν λοξοῖσι καρήασιν. εἶσατο γάρ ῥα
 νηὸς ὑπὲρ πάσης κατεπάλμενον ἀμφικαλύψειν.
 ἀλλὰ μιν ἔφθη Τῖφυσ ὑπ' εἰρεσίῃ βαρύθουσαν
 ἀγχαλάσας· τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπὸ τρόπιν ἐξεκυλίσθη,
 ἐκ δ' αὐτὴν πρύμνηθεν ἀνείρυσσε τηλόθι νῆα
 πετράων· ὑψοῦ δὲ μεταχρονίῃ πεφόρητο.
 Εὐφημος δ' ἀνὰ πάντας ἰὼν βοάσκειν ἐταίρους,
 ἐμβαλέειν κώπησιν ὅσον σθένος· οἱ δ' ἀλαλητῶ
 κόπτον ὕδωρ. ὅσον δ' ἄρ' ὕπείκαθε νηὺς ἐρέτη-
 σιν,

δις τόσον ἄψ ἀπόρουσεν· ἐπεγνάμπτοντο δὲ κῶπαι
 ἡύτε καμπύλα τόξα, βιαζομένων ἡρώων.

Ἐνθεν δ' αὐτίκ' ἔπειτα κατηρεφὲς ἔσσυτο κῦμα,
 ἣ δ' ἄφαρ ὥστε κύλινδρος ἐπέτρεχε κύματι λάβρῳ
 προπροκαταῖγδην κοίλης ἀλός. ἐν δ' ἄρα μέσσαις
 Πληγάσι δινήεις εἶχεν ῥόος· αἱ δ' ἐκάτερθεν
 σειόμεναι βρόμεον· πεπέδητο δὲ νῆια δούρα.
 καὶ τότε Ἀθηναίη στιβαρῆς ἀντέσπασε πέτρης
 σκαιῇ, δεξιτερῇ δὲ διαμπερὲς ὥσε φέρεσθαι.
 ἣ δ' ἰκέλη πτερόεντι μετήορος ἔσσυτ' οἰστῶ.
 ἔμπης δ' ἀφλάστοιο παρέθρισαν ἄκρα κόρυμβα
 νωλεμὲς ἐμπλήξασαι ἐναντίαι. αὐτὰρ Ἀθήνη
 Οὐλυμπόνδ' ἀνόρουσεν, ὅτ' ἀσκηθεῖς ὑπάλυξαν.
 πέτραι δ' εἰς ἓνα χῶρον ἐπισχεδὸν ἀλλήλησιν
 νωλεμὲς ἐρρίζωθεν, ὃ δὴ καὶ μόρσιμον ἦεν
 ἐκ μακάρων, εὐτ' ἂν τις ἰδὼν διὰ νηὶ περήσῃ.
 οἱ δὲ πονοκρυόεντος ἀνέπνεον ἄρτι φόβοιο
 ἡέρα παπταίνοντες ὁμοῦ πέλαγός τε θαλάσσης
 τῇλ' ἀναπεπτάμενον. δὴ γὰρ φάσαν ἐξ Αἰδαο
 σῶεσθαι· Τῖφυσ δὲ παροίτατος ἤρχετο μύθων·

¹ ἄρ' Herwerden : ἄν MSS.

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about to leap down upon the ship's whole length and to overwhelm them. But Tiphys was quick to ease the ship as she laboured with the oars; and in all its mass the wave rolled away beneath the keel, and at the stern it raised Argo herself and drew her far away from the rocks; and high in air was she borne. But Euphemus strode among all his comrades and cried to them to bend to their oars with all their might; and they with a shout smote the water. And as far as the ship yielded to the rowers, twice as far did she leap back, and the oars were bent like curved bows as the heroes used their strength.

Then a vaulted billow rushed upon them, and the ship like a cylinder ran on the furious wave plunging through the hollow sea. And the eddying current held her between the clashing rocks; and on each side they shook and thundered; and the ship's timbers were held fast. Then Athena with her left hand thrust back one mighty rock and with her right pushed the ship through; and she, like a winged arrow, sped through the air. Nevertheless the rocks, ceaselessly clashing, shore off as she passed the extreme end of the stern-ornament. But Athena soared up to Olympus, when they had escaped unscathed. And the rocks in one spot at that moment were rooted fast for ever to each other, which thing had been destined by the blessed gods, when a man in his ship should have passed between them alive. And the heroes breathed again after their chilling fear, beholding at the same time the sky and the expanse of sea spreading far and wide. For they deemed that they were saved from Hades; and Tiphys first of all began to speak:

ἔλπομαι αὐτῇ νηὶ τόγ' ἔμπεδον ἐξαλέασθαι
 ἡμέας· οὐδέ τις ἄλλος ἐπαίτιος, ὅσπον Ἀθήνη,
 ἣ οἱ ἐνέπνευσεν θεῖον μένος, εὐτέ μιν Ἄργος
 γόμφοισιν συνάρασσε· θέμις δ' οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλῶναι.
 Αἰσονίδη, τύνη δὲ τεοῦ βασιλῆος ἐφετμήν,
 εὖτε διέκ πέτρας φυγέειν θεὸς ἡμῖν ὅπασσεν,
 μηκέτι δείδιθι τοῖον· ἐπεὶ μετόπισθεν ἀέθλους
 εὐπαλέας τελέεσθαι Ἀγηνορίδης φάτο Φινεύς·

Ἡ ῥ' ἄμα, καὶ προτέρωσε παρὰ Βιθυνίδα
 γαίαν

νῆα διέκ πέλαγος σεῦεν μέσον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε 62
 μελιχίοις ἐπέεσσι παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·

Ἵψυ, τίη μοι ταῦτα παρηγορέεις ἀχέοντι;
 ἥμβροτον ἀσάμην τε κακὴν καὶ ἀμήχανον ἄτην.
 χρῆν γὰρ ἐφιεμένοιο καταντικρὺ Πελίαο
 αὐτίκ' ἀνήνασθαι τόνδε στόλον, εἰ καὶ ἔμελλον
 νηλειῶς μελεῖστί κεδαιόμενος θανέεσθαι·

νῦν δὲ περισσὸν δεῖμα καὶ ἀτλήτους μελεδῶνας 63
 ἄγκειμαι, στυγέων μὲν ἀλὸς κρύοντα κέλευθα
 νηὶ διαπλώειν, στυγέων δ', ὅτ' ἐπ' ἡπείροιο
 βαίνωμεν. πάντη γὰρ ἀνάρσιοι ἄνδρες ἔασιν.

αἰεὶ δὲ στονόεσσαν ἐπ' ἡματι νύκτα φυλάσσω,
 ἐξότε τὸ πρῶτιστον ἐμὴν χάριν ἡγερέθεσθε,
 φραζόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα· σὺ δ' εὐμαρέως ἀγορεύεις
 οἶον ἑῆς ψυχῆς ἀλέγων ὕπερ· αὐτὰρ ἔγωγε
 εἶο μὲν οὐδ' ἡβαιὸν ἀτύζομαι· ἀμφὶ δὲ τοῖο
 καὶ τοῦ ὁμῶς, καὶ σεῖο, καὶ ἄλλων δείδι' ἐταίρων
 εἰ μὴ ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαίαν ἀπήμονας ὕμμε κομίσσω·

Ὡς φάτ' ἀριστήων πειρώμενος· οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν
 θαρσαλέοις ἐπέεσιν. ὁ δὲ φρένας ἔνδον ἰάνθη
 κεκλομένων, καὶ ῥ' αὖτις ἐπιρρήδην μετέειπεν· 64

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“It is my hope that we have safely escaped this peril—we, and the ship; and none other is the cause so much as Athena, who breathed into Argo divine strength when Argus knitted her together with bolts; and she may not be caught. Son of Aeson, no longer fear thou so much the hest of thy king, since a god hath granted us escape between the rocks; for Phineus, Agenor’s son, said that our toils hereafter would be lightly accomplished.”

He spake, and at once he sped the ship onward through the midst of the sea past the Bithynian coast. But Jason with gentle words addressed him in reply: “Tiphys, why dost thou comfort thus my grieving heart? I have erred and am distraught in wretched and helpless ruin. For I ought, when Pelias gave the command, to have straightway refused this quest to his face, yea, though I were doomed to die pitilessly, torn limb from limb, but now I am wrapped in excessive fear and cares unbearable, dreading to sail through the chilling paths of the sea, and dreading when we shall set foot on the mainland. For on every side are unkindly men. And ever when day is done I pass a night of groans from the time when ye first gathered together for my sake, while I take thought for all things; but thou talkest at thine ease, caring only for thine own life; while for myself I am dismayed not a whit; but I fear for this man and for that equally, and for thee, and for my other comrades, if I shall not bring you back safe to the land of Hellas.”

Thus he spake, making trial of the chiefs; but they shouted loud with cheerful words. And his heart was warmed within him at their cry and again he spake outright among them:

‘Ω φίλοι, ὑμετέρῃ ἀρετῇ ἐνὶ θάρσος ἀέξω.
 τούνεκα νῦν οὐδ’ εἴ κε διέξ’ Αἶδαο βερέθρων
 στελλοίμην, ἔτι τάρβος ἀνάψομαι, εὔτε πέλεσθε
 ἔμπεδοι ἀργαλέοις ἐνὶ δείμασιν. ἀλλ’ ὅτε πέτρας
 Πληγάδας ἐξέπλωμεν, οἶομαι οὐκ ἔτ’ ὀπίσσω
 ἔσσεσθαι τοιόνδ’ ἕτερον φόβον, εἰ ἐτεόν γε
 φραδμοσύνη Φινῆος ἐπισπόμενοι νεόμεσθα.’

Ὡς φάτο, καὶ τοίων μὲν ἐλώφεον αὐτίκα μύθωι,
 εἰρεσίῃ δ’ ἀλίσστον ἔχον πόνον· αἶψα δὲ τοίγε
 Ῥήβαν ὠκυρόην ποταμὸν σκόπελόν τε Κολώνης, 65
 ἄκρην δ’ οὐ μετὰ δηθὰ παρεξενέοντο Μέλαιναν,
 τῇ δ’ ἄρ’ ἐπὶ προχοᾷς Φυλληίδας, ἔνθα πάροιθεν
 Διψακὸς νῆ’ Ἀθάμαντος ἐοῖς ὑπέδεκτο δόμοισιν,
 ὀππόθ’ ἅμα κριῶ φεύγεν πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο·
 τίκτε δέ μιν νύμφη λειμωνιάς· οὐδέ οἱ ὕβρις
 ἦνδανεν, ἀλλ’ ἐθειλημὸς ἐφ’ ὕδασι πατρὸς ἐοῖο
 μητέρι συνναίεσκεν ἐπάκτια πῶεα φέρβων.
 τοῦ μὲν θ’ ἱερὸν αἶψα, καὶ εὐρείας ποταμοῖο
 ἡμόνας πεδίου τε, βαθυρρεῖόντά τε Κάλπην
 δερκόμενοι παράμειβον, ὁμῶς δ’ ἐπὶ ἡματι νύκτα 66
 νήνεμον ἀκαμάτησιν ἐπερρώοντ’ ἐλάτησιν.
 οἶον δὲ πλαδόωσαν ἐπισχίζοντες ἄρουραν
 ἐργατῖναι μογέουσι βόες, πέρι δ’ ἄσπετος ἰδρῶς
 εἴβεται ἐκ λαγόνων τε καὶ αὐχένος· ὄμματα δέ
 σφιν

λοξὰ παραστρωφῶνται ὑπὸ ζυγοῦ· αὐτὰρ αὐτμῇ
 αὐαλέῃ στομάτων ἄμοτον βρέμει· οἱ δ’ ἐνὶ γαίῃ
 χηλὰς σκηρίπτοντε πανημέριοι πονέονται·
 τοῖς ἵκελοι ἥρωες ὑπὲξ ἁλὸς εἴλκον ἐρετμά.

Ἦμος δ’ οὐτ’ ἄρ πω φάος ἄμβροτον, οὐτ’ ἔτι λίην
 ὀρφναίῃ πέλεται, λεπτὸν δ’ ἐπιδέδρομε νυκτὶ 67
 φέγγος, ὅτ’ ἀμφιλύκην μιν ἀνεγρόμενοι καλέουσιν,

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"My friends, in your valour my courage is quickened. Wherefore now, even though I should take my way through the gulfs of Hades, no more shall I let fear seize upon me, since ye are steadfast amid cruel terrors. But now that we have sailed out from the striking rocks, I trow that never hereafter will there be another such fearful thing, if indeed we go on our way following the counsel of Phineus."

Thus he spake, and straightway they ceased from such words and gave unwearying labour to the oar; and quickly they passed by the swiftly flowing river Rhebas and the peak of Colone, and soon thereafter the Black headland, and near it the mouth of the river Phyllis, where aforetime Dipsacus received in his home the son of Athamas, when with his ram he was flying from the city of Orchomenus; and Dipsacus was the son of a meadow-nymph, nor was insolence his delight, but contented by his father's stream he dwelt with his mother, pasturing his flocks by the shore. And quickly they sighted and sailed past his shrine and the broad banks of the river and the plain, and deep-flowing Calpe, and all the windless night and the day they bent to their tireless oars. And even as ploughing oxen toil as they cleave the moist earth, and sweat streams in abundance from flank and neck; and from beneath the yoke their eyes roll askance, while the breath ever rushes from their mouths in hot gasps; and all day long they toil, planting their hoofs deep in the ground; like them the heroes kept dragging their oars through the sea.

Now when divine light has not yet come nor is it utter darkness, but a faint glimmer has spread over the night, the time when men wake and call it

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

τῆμος ἐρημαίης νήσου λιμέν' εἰσελάσαντες
 Θυνιάδος, καμάτῳ πολυπήμονι βαῖνον ἔραζε.
 τοῖσι δὲ Λητοῦς υἱός, ἀνερχόμενος Λυκίηθεν
 τῇλ' ἐπ' ἀπείρονα δῆμον Ὑπερβορέων ἀνθρώπων,
 ἐξεφάνη· χρύσειοι δὲ παρειάων ἐκάτερθεν
 πλοχμοὶ βοτρυνόεντες ἐπερρώοντο κίοντι·
 λαιῇ δ' ἀργύρεον νώμα βιόν, ἀμφὶ δὲ νώτοις
 ἰοδόκη τετάνυστο κατωμαδόν· ἡ δ' ὑπὸ ποσσὶν
 σείετο νήσος ὅλη, κλύζεν δ' ἐπὶ κύματα χέρσῳ.
 τοὺς δ' ἔλε θάμβος ἰδόντας ἀμήχανον· οὐδέ τις
 ἔτλη

ἀντίον αὐγάσσασθαι ἐς ὄμματα καλὰ θεοῖο.
 στὰν δὲ κάτω νεύσαντες ἐπὶ χθονός· αὐτὰρ ὁ
 τηλοῦ

βῆ ῥ' ἵμεναι πόντονδε δι' ἡέρος· ὄψε δὲ τοῖον
 Ὀρφεὺς ἔκφατο μῦθον ἀριστήεσσι πιφαύσκων·
 'Εἰ δ' ἄγε δὴ νήσον μὲν Ἑωίου Ἀπόλλωνος
 τήνδ' ἱερὴν κλείωμεν, ἐπεὶ πάντεσσι φαάνθη
 ἡῶς μετιών· τὰ δὲ ῥέξομεν οἷα πάρεστιν,
 βωμὸν ἀναστήσαντες ἐπάκτιον· εἰ δ' ἂν ὀπίσσω
 γαίαν ἐς Αἰμονίην ἀσκηθέα νόστον ὀπάσση,
 δὴ τότε οἱ κεραῶν ἐπὶ μηρία θήσομεν αἰγῶν.
 νῦν δ' αὖτως κνίσῃ λοιβῆσί τε μειλίξασθαι
 κέκλωμαι. ἀλλ' ἴληθι, ἄναξ, ἴληθι φαανθείς.'

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τοὶ μὲν ἄφαρ βωμὸν τετύκοντο
 χερμάσιν· οἱ δ' ἀνὰ νήσον ἐδίνεον, ἐξερέοντες
 εἰ κέ τιν' ἢ κεμάδων, ἢ ἀγροτέρων ἐσίδοιεν
 αἰγῶν, οἷά τε πολλὰ βαθείῃ βόσκεται ὕλη.
 τοῖσι δὲ Λητοίδης ἄγρην πόρεν· ἐκ δὲ νῦ πάντων
 εὐαγέως ἱερῷ ἀνὰ διπλόα μηρία βωμῷ
 καῖον, ἐπικλείοντες Ἑωίου Ἀπόλλωνα.
 ἀμφὶ δὲ δαιομένοις εὐρὺν χορὸν ἐστήσαντο,

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twilight, at that hour they ran into the harbour of the desert island Thynias and, spent by weary toil, mounted the shore. And to them the son of Leto, as he passed from Lycia far away to the countless folk of the Hyperboreans, appeared; and about his cheeks on both sides his golden locks flowed in clusters as he moved; in his left hand he held a silver bow, and on his back was slung a quiver hanging from his shoulders; and beneath his feet all the island quaked, and the waves surged high on the beach. Helpless amazement seized them as they looked; and no one dared to gaze face to face into the fair eyes of the god. And they stood with heads bowed to the ground; but he, far off, passed on to the sea through the air; and at length Orpheus spake as follows, addressing the chiefs:

“Come, let us call this island the sacred isle of Apollo of the Dawn since he has appeared to all, passing by at dawn; and we will offer such sacrifices as we can, building an altar on the shore; and if hereafter he shall grant us a safe return to the Haemonian land, then will we lay on his altar the thighs of horned goats. And now I bid you propitiate him with the steam of sacrifice and libations. Be gracious, O king, be gracious in thy appearing.”

Thus he spake, and they straightway built up an altar with shingle; and over the island they wandered, seeking if haply they could get a glimpse of a fawn or a wild goat, that often seek their pasture in the deep wood. And for them Leto's son provided a quarry; and with pious rites they wrapped in fat the thigh bones of them all and burnt them on the sacred altar, celebrating Apollo, Lord of Dawn. And round the burning sacrifice they set up a broad

καλὸν Ἴηπαιήον' Ἴηπαιήονα Φοῖβον
 μελπόμενοι· σὺν δέ σφιν εὖς πάις Οἰάγροιο
 Βιστονίη φόρμιγγι λιγείης ἤρχεν ἀοιδῆς·
 ὥς ποτε πετραίῃ ὑπὸ δειράδι Παρνησσοῖο
 Δελφύνην τόξοισι πελώριον ἐξενάριξεν,
 κοῦρος ἐὼν ἔτι γυμνός, ἔτι πλοκάμοισι γεγηθώς.
 ἰλήκοις· αἰεὶ τοι, ἄναξ, ἄτμητοι ἔθειραι,
 αἰὲν ἀδήλητοι· τῶς γὰρ θέμις. οἰόθι δ' αὐτῇ
 Λητῶ Κοιογένεια φίλαις ἐν χερσὶν ἀφάσσει.
 πολλὰ δὲ Κωρύκiai νύμφαι, Πλείστοιο θύγατρες,
 θαρσύνεσκον ἔπεσιν, Ἰήιε κεκληγυῖαι·
 ἔνθεν δὴ τότε καλὸν ἐφύμνιον ἔπλετο Φοῖβω.

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Αὐτὰρ ἐπειδὴ τόνγε χορείη μέλψαν ἀοιδῇ,
 λοιβαῖς εὐαγέεσσιν ἐπώμοσαν, ἥ μὲν ἀρήξειν
 ἀλλήλοις εἰσαιὲν ὁμοφροσύνησι νόοιο,
 ἀπτόμενοι θυέων· καί τ' εἰσέτι νῦν γε τέτυκται
 κεῖσ' Ὀμονοίης ἱρὸν εὐφρονος, ὃ ῥ' ἐκάμοντο
 αὐτοὶ κυδίστην τότε δαίμονα πορσαίνοντες.

Ἦμος δὲ τρίτατον φάος ἤλυθε, δὴ τότε ἔπειτα
 ἀκραεῖ ξεφύρῳ νῆσον λίπον αἰπήεσσαν.
 ἔνθεν δ' ἀντιπέρην ποταμοῦ στόμα Σαγγαρίοιο
 καὶ Μαριανδυνῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐριθηλέα γαῖαν
 ἠδὲ Λύκοιο ῥέεθρα καὶ Ἀνθεμοεισίδα λίμνην
 δερκόμενοι παράμειβον· ὑπὸ πνοιῇ δὲ κάλῳες
 ὅπλα τε νῆια πάντα τινάσσετο νισσομένοισιν.
 ἠῶθεν δ' ἀνέμοιο διὰ κνέφας εὐνηθέντος
 ἀσπασίως ἄκρης Ἀχερουσίδος ὄρμον ἵκοντο.
 ἥ μὲν τε κρημνοῖσιν ἀνίσχεται ἡλιβάτοισιν.
 εἰς ἄλα δερκομένη Βιθυνίδα· τῇ δ' ὑπὸ πέτραι
 λισσάδες ἐρρίζωνται ἀλίβροχοι· ἀμφὶ δὲ τῇσιν
 κῦμα κυλινδόμενον μεγάλα βρέμει· αὐτὰρ ὑπερθεῖν
 ἀμφιλαφεῖς πλατάνιστοι ἐπ' ἀκροτάτῃ πεφύασιν.

720

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dancing-ring, singing, "All hail, fair god of healing, Phoebus, all hail," and with them Oeagrus' goodly son began a clear lay on his Bistonian lyre; how once beneath the rocky ridge of Parnassus he slew with his bow the monster Delphyne, he, still young and beardless, still rejoicing in his long tresses. Mayst thou be gracious! Ever, O king, be thy locks unshorn, ever unravaged; for so is it right. And none but Leto, daughter of Coeus, strokes them with her dear hands. And often the Corycian nymphs, daughters of Pleistus, took up the cheering strain crying "Healer"; hence arose this lovely refrain of the hymn to Phoebus.

Now when they had celebrated him with dance and song they took an oath with holy libations, that they would ever help each other with concord of heart, touching the sacrifice as they swore; and even now there stands there a temple to gracious Concord, which the heroes themselves reared, paying honour at that time to the glorious goddess.

Now when the third morning came, with a fresh west wind they left the lofty island. Next, on the opposite side they saw and passed the mouth of the river Sangarius and the fertile land of the Mariandyni, and the stream of Lycus and the Anthemoeisian lake; and beneath the breeze the ropes and all the tackling quivered as they sped onward. During the night the wind ceased and at dawn they gladly reached the haven of the Acherusian headland. It rises aloft with steep cliffs, looking towards the Bithynian sea; and beneath it smooth rocks, ever washed by the sea, stand rooted firm; and round them the wave rolls and thunders loud, but above, wide-spreading plane trees

ἐκ δ' αὐτῆς εἴσω κατακέκλιται ἡπειρόνδε
κοίλῃ ὕπαιθα νάπη, ἵνα τε σπέος ἔστ' Ἀίδαο
ὕλῃ καὶ πέτρῃσιν ἐπηρεφές, ἔνθεν αὐτμῇ
πηγυλὶς, ὀκρυόεντος ἀναπνεύουσα μυχοῖο
συνεχές, ἀργινόεσσαν αἰεὶ περιτέτροφε πάχυνν,
ἥτε μεσημβριόωντος λαίνεται ἡέλιοιο.

σιγῇ δ' οὐποτε τήνγε κατὰ βλοσυρὴν ἔχει ἄκρην, 740
ἀλλ' ἄμυδις πόντοιο θ' ὑπὸ στένει ἡχέεντος,
φύλλων τε πνοιῇσι τινασσομένων μυχήσιν.
ἔνθα δὲ καὶ προχοαὶ ποταμοῦ Ἀχέροντος ἔασιν,
ὅστε διέξ ἄκρης ἀνερεύγεται εἰς ἅλα βάλλων
ἡώην· κοίλῃ δὲ φάραγξ κατάγει μιν ἄνωθεν.
τὸν μὲν ἐν ὀψιγόνοισι Σωναύτην ὀνόμηναν
Νισαῖοι Μεγαρήες, ὅτε νάσσεσθαι ἔμελλον
γῆν Μαρνανδυνῶν. δὴ γάρ σφεας ἐξεσάωσεν
αὐτῇσιν νήεσσι, κακῇ χρίμψαντας ἀέλλῃ.
τῇ ῥ' οἴγ' αὐτίκα νηὶ διέξ Ἀχερουσίδος ἄκρης 750
εἴσωποὶ ἀνέμοιο νέον λήγοντος ἐκελσαν.

Οὐδ' ἄρα δηθὰ Λύκον, κείνης πρόμον ἡπείροιο,
καὶ Μαρνανδυνοὺς λάθον ἀνέρας ὀρμηθέντες
αὐθένται Ἀμύκοιο κατὰ κλέος, ὃ πρὶν ἄκουον·
ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀρθμὸν ἔθεντο μετὰ σφίσι τοῖο ἔκητι.
αὐτὸν δ' ὥστε θεὸν Πολυδεύκεα δεξιόωντο
πάντοθεν ἀγρόμενοι· ἐπεὶ ἦ μάλα τοίγ' ἐπὶ δηρὸν
ἀντιβίην Βέβρυξιν ὑπερφιάλοις πολέμιζον.
καὶ δὴ πασσυδίῃ μεγάρων ἔντοσθε Λύκοιο
κεῖν' ἡμᾶρ φιλότῃτι, μετὰ πτολίεθρον ἰόντες, 760
δαίτην ἀμφίεπον, τέρποντό τε θυμὸν ἔπεσσι.
Αἰσονίδης μὲν οἱ γενεὴν καὶ οὐνομ' ἐκάστου

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grow on the topmost point. And from it towards the land a hollow glen slopes gradually away, where there is a cave of Hades overarched by wood and rocks. From here an icy breath, unceasingly issuing from the chill recess, ever forms a glistening rime which melts again beneath the midday sun. And never does silence hold that grim headland, but there is a continual murmur from the sounding sea and the leaves that quiver in the winds from the cave. And here is the outfall of the river Acheron which bursts its way through the headland and falls into the Eastern sea, and a hollow ravine brings it down from above.¹ In after times the Nisæan Megarians named it Soönautes¹ when they were about to settle in the land of the Mariandyni. For indeed the river saved them with their ships when they were caught in a violent tempest. By this way the heroes took the ship through² the Acherusian headland and came to land over against it as the wind had just ceased.

Not long had they come unmarked by Lycus, the lord of that land, and the Mariandyni—they, the slayers of Amycus, according to the report which the people heard before; but for that very deed they even made a league with the heroes. And Polydeuces himself they welcomed as a god, flocking from every side, since for a long time had they been warring against the arrogant Bebrycians. And so they went up all together into the city, and all that day with friendly feelings made ready a feast within the palace of Lycus and gladdened their souls with converse. Aeson's son told him the lineage and

¹ *i.e.* Saviour of sailors.

² *i.e.* through the ravine that divides the headland.

σφωιτέρων μυθεῖθ' ἐτάρων, Πελίαό τ' ἐφετμάς,
 ἦδ' ὡς Λημνιάδεσσιν ἐπεξεινοῦντο γυναιξίν,
 ὅσσα τε Κύζικον ἀμφὶ Δολιονίην ἐτέλεσσαν·
 Μυσίδα δ' ὡς ἀφίκοντο Κίον θ', ὅθι κάλλιπον ἦρω
 Ἑρακλέην ἀέκοντι νόῳ, Γλαύκοιό τε βάζιν
 πέφραδε, καὶ Βέβρυκας ὅπως Ἀμυκόν τ' ἐδάϊξαν,
 καὶ Φινῆος ἔειπε θεοπροπίας τε δύν τε,
 ἦδ' ὡς Κυανέας πέτρας φύγον, ὥς τ' ἀβόλησαν
 Λητοῖδῃ κατὰ νῆσον. ὁ δ' ἐξείης ἐνέποντος
 θέλγετ' ἀκουῇ θυμόν· ἄχος δ' ἔλεν Ἑρακλῆι
 λειπομένῳ, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος πάντεσσι μετηύδα·

ᾠ φίλοι, οἷον φωτὸς ἀποπλαγχθέντες ἀρωγῆς
 πείρετ' ἐς Αἰήτην τόσσον πλόον. εὐ γὰρ ἐγὼ μιν
 Δασκύλου ἐν μεγάροισι καταυτόθι πατρὸς ἐμοῖο
 οἶδ' ἐσιδών, ὅτε δεῦρο δι' Ἀσίδος ἠπείροιο
 πεζὸς ἔβη ζωστήρα φιλοπτολέμοιο κομίζων
 Ἱππολύτης· ἐμὲ δ' εὗρε νέον χνοάοντα ἰούλους.
 ἔνθα δ' ἐπὶ Πριόλαο κασιγνήτοιο θανόντος
 ἡμετέρου Μυσοῖσιν ὑπ' ἀνδράσιν, ὄντινα λαὸς
 οἰκτίστοις ἐλέγοισιν ὀδύρεται ἐξέτι κείνου,
 ἀθλεύων Τιτίνην ἀπεκαίνυτο πυγμαχέοντα
 καρτερόν, ὃς πάντεσσι μετέπρεπεν ἠιθέοισιν
 εἰδὸς τ' ἠδὲ βίην· χαμάδις δέ οἱ ἦλας ὀδόντας.
 αὐτὰρ ὁμοῦ Μυσοῖσιν ἐμῷ ὑπὸ πατρὶ δάμασσει
 καὶ Φρύγας,¹ οἳ ναίουσιν ὁμώλακας ἡμιν ἀρούρας,
 φῦλά τε Βιθυνῶν αὐτῇ κτεατίσσατο γαίῃ,
 ἔστ' ἐπὶ Ῥηβαίου προχοᾶς σκόπελόν τε Κολώνης·
 Παφλαγόνες τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς Πελοπήιοι εἵκαθον αὖτως,

¹ καὶ Φρύγας] Μύγδονας is given in the scholia as a variant.

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name of each of his comrades and the behests of Pelias, and how they were welcomed by the Lemnian women, and all that they did at Dolionian Cyzicus ; and how they reached the Mysian land and Cius, where, sore against their will, they left behind the hero Heracles, and he told the saying of Glaucus, and how they slew the Bebrycians and Amycus, and he told of the prophecies and affliction of Phineus, and how they escaped the Cyanean rocks, and how they met with Leto's son at the island. And as he told all, Lycus was charmed in soul with listening ; and he grieved for Heracles left behind, and spake as follows among them all :

“ O friends, what a man he was from whose help ye have fallen away, as ye cleave your long path to Aeetes ; for well do I know that I saw him here in the halls of Dascylus my father, when he came hither on foot through the land of Asia bringing the girdle of warlike Hippolyte ; and me he found with the down just growing on my cheeks. And here, when my brother Priolas was slain by the Mysians—my brother, whom ever since the people lament with most piteous dirges—he entered the lists with Titias in boxing and slew him, mighty Titias, who surpassed all the youths in beauty and strength ; and he dashed his teeth to the ground. Together with the Mysians he subdued beneath my father's sway the Phrygians also, who inhabit the lands next to us, and he made his own the tribes of the Bithynians and their land, as far as the mouth of Rhebas and the peak of Colone ; and besides them the Paphlagonians of Pelops yielded just as they were,

ὅσους Βιλλαίοιο μέλαν περιάγνυται ὕδωρ.
 ἀλλά με νῦν Βέβρυκες ὑπερβασίῃ τ' Ἀμύκοιο
 τηλόθι ναιετάοντος, ἐνόσφισαν, Ἡρακλῆος,
 δὴν ἀποτεμνόμενοι γαίης ἄλῃς, ὄφρ' ἐβάλοντο
 οὖρα βαθυρρείοντος ὑφ' εἰαμεναῖς Ὑπίοιο.
 ἔμπης δ' ἐξ ὑμέων ἔδοσαν τίσιν· οὐδὲ ἔφημι
 ἡματι τῷδ' ἀέκητι θεῶν ἐπελάσσαι ἄρηα,
 Τυνδαρίδην Βέβρυξιν, ὅτ' ἀνέρα κείνον ἔπεφνεν.
 τῷ νῦν ἦντιν' ἐγὼ τίσαι χάριν ἄρκιός εἰμι,
 τίσω προφρονέως. ἡ γὰρ θέμις ἡπεδανοῖσιν
 ἀνδράσιν, εὖτ' ἄρξωσιν ἀρείονες ἄλλοι ὀφέλλειν.
 ξυνῇ μὲν πάντεσσιν ὁμόστολον ὕμμιν ἔπεσθαι
 Δάσκυλον ὀτρυνέω, ἐμὸν νίεα· τοῖο δ' ἰόντος,
 ἦ τ' ἂν ἐυξείνοισι διέξ ἁλὸς ἀντιάοιτε
 ἀνδράσιν, ὄφρ' αὐτοῖο ποτὶ στόμα Θερμώδοντος.
 νόσφι δὲ Τυνδαρίδαις Ἀχερουσίδος ὑψόθεν ἄκρης
 εἴσομαι ἱερὸν αἰπύ· τὸ μὲν μάλα τηλόθι πάντες
 ναυτίλοι ἅμ πέλαγος θηεύμενοι ἰλαξονται·
 καὶ κέ σφιν μετέπειτα πρὸ ἄστεος, οἷα θεοῖσιν,
 πίονας εὐαρότοιο γύας πεδίοιο ταμοίμην.

Ὡς τότε μὲν δαῖτ' ἀμφὶ πανήμεροι ἐψιόωντο.
 ἥρι γε μὴν ἐπὶ νῆα κατήϊσαν ἐγκονέοντες·
 καὶ δ' αὐτὸς σὺν τοῖσι Λύκος κίε, μυρὶ ὀπάσσας
 δῶρα φέρειν· ἅμα δ' υἷα δόμων ἔκπεμπε νέεσθαι.

Ἐνθα δ' Ἀβαντιάδην πεπρωμένη ἤλασε μοῖρα
 Ἴδμονα, μαντοσύνησι κεκασμένον· ἀλλὰ μιν οὔτι
 μαντοσύναι ἐσάωσαν, ἐπεὶ χρεὼ ἦγε δαμῆναι.
 κεῖτο γὰρ εἰαμενῇ δονακώδεος ἐν ποταμοῖο
 ψυχόμενος λάγονας τε καὶ ἄσπετον ἰλύι νηδὺν
 κάπριος ἀργιόδων, ὀλοὸν τέρας, ὃν ῥα καὶ αὐταῖ

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even all those round whom the dark water of Billaeus breaks. But now the Bebrycians and the insolence of Amycus have robbed me, since Heracles dwells far away, for they have long been cutting off huge pieces of my land until they have set their bounds at the meadows of deep-flowing Hypius. Nevertheless, by your hands have they paid the penalty; and it was not without the will of heaven, I trow, that he brought war on the Bebrycians this day—he, the son of Tyndareus, when he slew that champion. Wherefore whatever requital I am now able to pay, gladly will I pay it, for that is the rule for weaker men when the stronger begin to help them. So with you all, and in your company, I bid Dascylus my son follow; and if he goes, you will find all men friendly that ye meet on your way through the sea even to the mouth of the river Thermodon. And besides that, to the sons of Tyndareus will I raise a lofty temple on the Acherusian height, which all sailors shall mark far across the sea and shall reverence; and hereafter for them will I set apart outside the city, as for gods, some fertile fields of the well-tilled plain.”

Thus all day long they revelled at the banquet. But at dawn they hied down to the ship in haste; and with them went Lycus himself, when he had given them countless gifts to bear away; and with them he sent forth his son from his home.

And here his destined fate smote Idmon, son of Abas, skilled in soothsaying; but not at all did his soothsaying save him, for necessity drew him on to death. For in the mead of the reedy river there lay, cooling his flanks and huge belly in the mud, a white-tusked boar, a deadly monster, whom even the

νύμφαι ἐλειονόμοι ὑπεδείδισαν· οὐδέ τις ἀνδρῶν
 ἡεῖδει· οἷος δὲ κατὰ πλατὺ βόσκετο τῖφος.
 αὐτὰρ ὅγ' ἱλυνέεντος ἀνὰ θρωσμούς ποταμοῖο
 νίσσεται Ἀβαντιάδης· ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο
 ὕψι μάλ' ἐκ δονάκων ἀνεπάλμενος ἤλασε μηρὸν
 αἰγδὴν, μέσσας δὲ σὺν ὀστέῳ ἱνας ἔκερσεν.
 ὀξὺ δ' ὄγε κλάγξας οὔδει πέσεν· οἱ δὲ τυπέντος
 ἀθρόοι ἀντιάχυσαν· ὀρέξατο δ' αἰψ' ὀλοοῖο
 Πηλεὺς αἰγανὴν φύγαδ' εἰς ἔλος ὀρμηθέντος
 καπρίου· ἔσσυτο δ' αὖτις ἐναντίος· ἀλλὰ μιν Ἰδας 830
 οὔτασε, βεβρυχὼς δὲ θοῶ περικάππεσε δουρί.
 καὶ τὸν μὲν χαμάδις λίπον αὐτόθι πεπτηῶτα·
 τὸν δ' ἔταροι ἐπὶ νῆα φέρον ψυχορραγέοντα,
 ἀχνύμενοι, χεῖρεςσι δ' ἑὼν ἐνικάτθαν' ἐταίρων.
 Ἔνθα δὲ ναυτιλίας μὲν ἐρητύοντο μέλεσθαι,
 ἀμφὶ δὲ κηδεῖη νέκυος μένον ἀσχαλόωντες.
 ἥματα δὲ τρία πάντα γόων· ἐτέρῳ δέ μιν ἤδη
 τάρχυνον μεγαλωστί· συνεκτερείζε δὲ λαὸς
 αὐτῷ ὁμοῦ βασιλῇ Λύκῳ· παρὰ δ' ἄσπετα μῆλα
 ἢ θέμις οἰχομένοισι, ταφίῃα λαιμοτόμησαν. 840
 καὶ δὴ τοι κέχυται τοῦδ' ἀνέρος ἐν χθονὶ κείνῃ
 τύμβος· σῆμα δ' ἔπεστι καὶ ὀψιγόνοισιν ἰδέσθαι,
 νηίου ἐκ κοτίνιο φάλαγξ· θαλέθει δέ τε φύλλοις
 ἄκρης τυτθὸν ἔνερθ' Ἀχερουσίδος· εἰ δέ με καὶ τὸ
 χρεῖῳ ἀπηλεγέως Μουσέων ὕπο γηρῦσασθαι,
 τόνδε πολισσουῶν διεπέφραδε Βοιωτοῖσιν
 Νισαίοισι τε Φοῖβος ἐπιρρήδην ἰλάεσθαι,
 ἀμφὶ δὲ τήνγε φάλαγγα παλαιγενέος κοτίνιο

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nymphs of the marsh dreaded, and no man knew it ; but all alone he was feeding in the wide fen. But the son of Abas was passing along the raised banks of the river, and the boar from some unseen lair leapt out of the reed-bed, and charging gashed his thigh and severed in twain the sinews and the bone. And with a sharp cry the hero fell to the ground ; and as he was struck his comrades flocked together with answering cry. And quickly Peleus with his hunting spear aimed at the murderous boar as he fled back into the fen ; and again he turned and charged ; but Idas wounded him, and with a roar he fell impaled upon the sharp spear. And the boar they left on the ground just as he had fallen there ; but Idmon, now at the last gasp, his comrades bore to the ship in sorrow of heart, and he died in his comrades' arms.

And here they stayed from taking thought for their voyaging and abode in grief for the burial of their dead friend. And for three whole days they lamented ; and on the next they buried him with full honours, and the people and King Lycus himself took part in the funeral rites ; and, as is the due of the departed, they slaughtered countless sheep at his tomb. And so a barrow to this hero was raised in that land, and there stands a token for men of later days to see, the trunk of a wild olive tree, such as ships are built of ; and it flourishes with its green leaves a little below the Acherusian headland. And if at the bidding of the Muses I must tell this tale outright, Phoebus strictly commanded the Boeotians and Nisaeans to worship him as guardian of their city, and to build their city round the trunk of the ancient wild olive ; but they,

ἄστν βαλεῖν· οἱ δ' ἀντὶ θεουδέος Αἰολίδαο
Ἰδμονος εἰσέτι νῦν Ἀγαμήστορα κυδαίνουσιν.

85

Τίς γὰρ δὴ θάνεν ἄλλος; ἐπεὶ καὶ ἔτ' αὖτις ἔχευαν
ἥρωες τότε τύμβον ἀποφθιμένου ἐτάριοιο.
δοιὰ γὰρ οὖν κείνων ἔτι σήματα φαίνεται ἀνδρῶν.
Ἀγνιάδην Τῖφυν θανέειν φάτις· οὐδέ οἱ ἦεν
μοῖρ' ἔτι ναυτίλλεσθαι ἐκαστέρω. ἀλλά νυ καὶ τὸν
αὖθι μινυνθαδίη πάτρης ἐκὰς εὐνάσε νοῦσος,
εἰσότ' Ἀβαντιάδαο νέκυν κτερέιξεν ὄμιλος.
ἄτλητον δ' ὀλοῶ ἐπὶ πῆματι κῆδος ἔλοντο.
δὴ γὰρ ἐπεὶ καὶ τόνδε παρασχεδὸν ἐκτερέιξαν
αὐτοῦ, ἀμηχανίῃσιν ἀλὸς προπάραιθε πεσόντες,
ἐντυπὰς εὐκῆλως εἰλυμένοι οὔτε τι σίτου
μνώνοντ' οὔτε ποτοῖο· κατήμυσαν δ' ἀχέεσσιν
θυμόν, ἐπεὶ μάλα πολλὸν ἀπ' ἐλπίδος ἔπλετο
νόστος.

86

καὶ νύ κ' ἔτι προτέρω τετιημένοι ἰσχανόωντο,
εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Ἀγκαίῳ περιώσιον ἔμβαλεν Ἥρη
θάρσος, ὃν Ἰμβρασίοισι παρ' ὕδασι νῆας Ἀστυπάλαια
τίκτε Ποσειδάωνι· περιπρὸ γὰρ εὖ ἐκέκαστο
ἰθύνειν, Πηλῆα δ' ἐπεσσύμενος προσέειπεν·

Ἀϊακίδη, πῶς καλὸν ἀφειδήσαντας ἀέθλων
γαίῃ ἐν ἀλλοδαπῇ δὴν ἔμμεναι; οὐ μὲν ἄρῃος
ἵδριν ἐόντά με τόσσον ἄγει μετὰ κῶας Ἰήσων
Παρθενίης ἀπάνευθεν, ὅσον τ' ἐπιίστορα νηῶν.
τῷ μὴ μοι τυτθὸν γε δέος περὶ νηὶ πελέσθω.
ὥς δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι δεῦρο δαήμονες ἄνδρες ἔασιν,
τῶν ὅτινα πρύμνης ἐπιβήσομεν, οὔτις ἰάψει
ναυτιλίν. ἀλλ' ὦκα, παραιφάμενος τάδε πάντα,
θαρσαλέως ὀρόθυνον ἐπιμνήσασθαι ἀέθλου.'

87

Ὡς φάτο· τοῖο δὲ θυμὸς ὀρέξατο γηθοσύνησιν.
αὐτίκα δ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐνὶ μέσσοις ἀγόρευσεν·

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instead of the god-fearing Aeolid Idmon, at this day honour Agamestor.

Who was the next that died? For then a second time the heroes heaped up a barrow for a comrade dead. For still are to be seen two monuments of those heroes. The tale goes that Tiphys son of Hagnias died; nor was it his destiny thereafter to sail any further. But him there on the spot a short sickness laid to rest far from his native land, when the company had paid due honours to the dead son of Abas. And at the cruel woe they were seized with unbearable grief. For when with due honours they had buried him also hard by the seer, they cast themselves down in helplessness on the sea-shore silently, closely wrapped up, and took no thought for meat or drink; and their spirit drooped in grief, for all hope of return was gone. And in their sorrow they would have stayed from going further had not Hera kindled exceeding courage in Aeneas, whom near the waters of Imbrusus Astypalaea bore to Poseidon; for especially was he skilled in steering and eagerly did he address Peleus:

“Son of Aeacus, is it well for us to give up our toils and linger on in a strange land? Not so much for my prowess in war did Jason take me with him in quest of the fleece, far from Parthenia, as for my knowledge of ships. Wherefore, I pray, let there be no fear for the ship. And so there are here other men of skill, of whom none will harm our voyaging, whomsoever we set at the helm. But quickly tell forth all this and boldly urge them to call to mind their task.”

Thus he spake; and Peleus' soul was stirred with gladness, and straightway he spake in the midst of

‘ Δαιμόνιοι, τί νυ πένθος ἐτώσιον ἴσχομεν αἰῶτως; 880
οἱ μὲν γάρ ποθι τοῦτον, ὃν ἔλλαχον, οἷτον ὄλοντο·
ἡμῖν δ’ ἐν γὰρ ἔασι κυβερνητῆρες ὁμίλῳ,
καὶ πολέες. τῷ μὴ τι διατριβώμεθα πείρης·
ἀλλ’ ἔγρεσθ’ εἰς ἔργον, ἀπορρίψαντες ἀνίας.’

Τὸν δ’ αὖτ’ Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἀμηχανέων προσέειπεν·
‘ Αἰακίδη, πῇ δ’ οἶδε κυβερνητῆρες ἔασιν;
οὓς μὲν γὰρ τὸ πάροιθε δαήμονας εὐχόμεθ’ εἶναι,
οἶδε κατηφήσαντες ἐμεῦ πλέον ἀσχαλώωσιν.
τῷ καὶ ὁμοῦ φθιμένοισι κακὴν προτιύσσομαι αἴτην,
εἰ δὴ μῆτ’ ὀλοοῖο μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο 890
ἔσσεται, ἢ καὶ αὖτις ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαίαν ἰκέσθαι
πετράων ἔκτοσθε, καταυτόθι δ’ ἄμμε καλύψει
ἀκλειῶς κακὸς οἶτος, ἐτώσια γηράσκοντας.’

‘Ὡς ἔφατ’· Ἀγκαῖος δὲ μάλ’ ἐσσυμένως ὑπέδεκτο
νῆα θοὴν ἄξιεν· δὴ γὰρ θεοῦ ἐτράπεθ’ ὄρμῃ.
τὸν δὲ μετ’ Ἐργίνος καὶ Ναύπλιός Εὐφημός τε
ὤρουντ’, ἰθύνειν λεληημένοι. ἀλλ’ ἄρα τούσγε
ἔσχεθον· Ἀγκαῖω δὲ πολεῖς ἤνησαν ἐταίρων.

Ἦῳι δ’ ἠπειτα δυωδεκάτῳ ἐπέβαινον
ἡματι· δὴ γάρ σφιν ζεφύρου μέγας οὖρος ἄητο.
καρπαλίμως δ’ Ἀχέροντα διεξεπέρησαν ἐρετμοῖς,
ἐκ δ’ ἔχεαν πίσυνοι ἀνέμῳ λῖνα, πούλῳ δ’ ἐπιπρὸ
λαιφέων πεπταμένων τέμνον πλόον εὐδιόωντες.
ᾧκα δὲ Καλλιχόροιο παρὰ προχοᾶς ποταμοῖο
ἤλυθον, ἐνθ’ ἐνέπουσι Διὸς Νυσήϊον νῖα,
Ἴνδῶν ἡνίκα φῦλα λιπὼν κατενάσσατο Θήβας,
ὀργιάσαι, στηῆσαι τε χοροὺς ἄντροιο πάροιθεν,
ᾧ ἐν ἀμειδίτους ἀγίας ἠὐλίζετο νύκτας,

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all: "My friends, why do we thus cherish a bootless grief like this? For those two have perished by the fate they have met with; but among our host are steersmen yet, and many a one. Wherefore let us not delay our attempt, but rouse yourselves to the work and cast away your griefs."

And him in reply Aeson's son addressed with helpless words: "Son of Aeacus, where are these steersmen of thine? For those whom we once deemed to be men of skill, they even more than I are bowed with vexation of heart. Wherefore I forebode an evil doom for us even as for the dead, if it shall be our lot neither to reach the city of fell Aetes, nor ever again to pass beyond the clashing rocks to the land of Hellas, but a wretched fate will enshroud us here ingloriously till we grow old for naught."

Thus he spake, but Ancaeus quickly undertook to guide the swift ship; for he was stirred by the impulse of the goddess. And after him Erginus and Nauplius and Euphemus started up, eager to steer. But the others held them back, and many of his comrades granted it to Ancaeus.

So on the twelfth day they went aboard at dawn, for a strong breeze of westerly wind was blowing. And quickly with the oars they passed out through the river Acheron and, trusting to the wind, shook out their sails, and with canvas spread far and wide they were cleaving their passage through the waves in fair weather. And soon they passed the outfall of the river Callichorus, where, as the tale goes, the Nysean son of Zeus, when he had left the tribes of the Indians and came to dwell at Thebes, held revels and arrayed dances in front of a cave, wherein he passed unsmiling sacred nights, from which time

ἐξ οὗ Καλλίχορον ποταμὸν περιναϊετάοντες
ἤδὲ καὶ Αὐλίων ἄντρον ἐπωνυμίην καλέουσιν.

91

Ἐνθεν δὲ Σθενέλου τάφον ἔδρακον Ἀκτορίδαο,
ὃς ῥά τ' Ἀμαζονίδων πολυθαρσέος ἐκ πολέμοιο
ἄψ' ἀνιῶν—δὴ γὰρ συνανήλυθεν Ἡρακλῆι—
βλήμενος ἰὼ κεῖθεν ἐπ' ἀγχιάλου θάνεν ἀκτῆς.
οὐ μὲν θην προτέρω ἔτ' ἐμέτρεον· ἦκε γὰρ αὐτὴ
Φερσεφώνη ψυχὴν πολυδάκρυον Ἀκτορίδαο
λίσσομένην τυτθὸν περ ὁμήθεας ἄνδρας ιδέσθαι.
τύμβου δὲ στεφάνης ἐπιβάς σκοπιάζετο νῆα
τοῖος ἑών, οἷος πόλεμόνδ' ἱέν· ἀμφὶ δὲ καλὴ
τετράφαλος φοῖνικι λόφῳ ἐπελάμπετο πῆληξ.
καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν αὖτις ἔδυνε μέγαν ζόφον· οἱ δ'
ἔσιδόντες

92

θάμβησαν· τοὺς δ' ὥρσε θεοπροπέων ἐπικέλσαι
Ἀμπυκίδης Μόψος λοιβῆσί τε μειλίξασθαι.
οἱ δ' ἀνὰ μὲν κραιπνῶς λαῖφος σπίασαν, ἐκ δὲ
βαλόντες

πέισματ' ἐν αἰγιαλῷ Σθενέλου τάφον ἀμφεπένοντο,
χύτλα τέ οἱ χεύοντο, καὶ ἦγνισαν ἔντομα μῆλων.
ἄνδιχα δ' αὖ χύτλων νηοσσόῳ Ἀπόλλωνι
βωμὸν δειμάμενοι μῆρ¹ ἔφλεγον· ἂν δὲ καὶ Ὀρφεὺς
θῆκε λύρην· ἐκ τοῦ δὲ Λύρη πέλει οὔνομα χώρῳ.

Αὐτίκα δ' οἷγ' ἀνέμοιο κατασπέρχοντος ἔβησαν
νῆ' ἐπὶ· καὶ δ' ἄρα λαῖφος ἐρυσσάμενοι τανύοντο
ἐς πόδας ἀμφοτέρους· ἢ δ' ἐς πέλαγος πεφόρητο
ἐντενές, ἥντε τίς τε δι' ἡέρος ὑψόθι κίρκος
ταρσὸν ἐφείς πνοιῇ φέρεται ταχύς, οὐδὲ τινάσσει
ρίπῃν, εὐκῆλοισιν ἐνευδιόων πτερύγεσσιν.
καὶ δὴ Παρθενίοιο ῥοὰς ἀλιμυρήεντος,

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¹ μῆρ' Brunck : μῆλ' MSS.

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the neighbours call the river by the name of Callichorus¹ and the cave Aulion.²

Next they beheld the barrow of Sthenelus, Actor's son, who on his way back from the valorous war against the Amazons—for he had been the comrade of Heracles—was struck by an arrow and died there upon the sea-beach. And for a time they went no further, for Persephone herself sent forth the spirit of Actor's son which craved with many tears to behold men like himself, even for a moment. And mounting on the edge of the barrow he gazed upon the ship, such as he was when he went to war; and round his head a fair helm with four peaks gleamed with its blood-red crest. And again he entered the vast gloom; and they looked and marvelled; and Mopsus, son of Ampycus, with word of prophecy urged them to land and propitiate him with libations. Quickly they drew in sail and threw out hawsers, and on the strand paid honour to the tomb of Sthenelus, and poured out drink offerings to him and sacrificed sheep as victims. And besides the drink offerings they built an altar to Apollo, saviour of ships, and burnt thigh bones; and Orpheus dedicated his lyre; whence the place has the name of Lyra.

And straightway they went aboard as the wind blew strong; and they drew the sail down, and made it taut to both sheets; then Argo was borne over the sea swiftly, even as a hawk soaring high through the air commits to the breeze its outspread wings and is borne on swiftly, nor swerves in its flight, poising in the clear sky with quiet pinions. And lo, they passed by the stream of Parthenius as it flows into the sea, a

¹ i.e. river of fair dances,

² i.e. the bedchamber.

πρηυτάτου ποταμοῦ, παρεμέτρεον, ὃ ἔνι κούρη
 Λητωίς, ἄγρηθεν ὅτ' οὐρανὸν εἰσαναβαίνη,
 ὃν δέμας ἱμερτοῖσιν ἀναψύχει ὑδάτεσσιν.
 νυκτὶ δ' ἔπειτ' ἄλληκτον ἐπιπροτέρωσε θέοντες 94
 Σήσαμον αἰπεινούς τε παρεξενέοντ' Ἐρυθίνους,
 Κρωβίαλον, Κρῶμνάν τε καὶ ὑλήεντα Κύτωρον.
 ἔνθεν δ' αὖτε Κάραμβιν ἄμ' ἡέλιοιο βολῇσιν
 γνάμψαντες παρὰ πουλὺν ἔπειτ' ἤλαννον ἐρετμοῖς
 Αἰγιαλὸν πρόπαν ἡμαρ ὁμῶς καὶ ἐπ' ἡματι νύκτα.
 Αὐτίκα δ' Ἀσσυρίης ἐπέβαν χθονός, ἔνθα

Σινώπην,

θυγατέρ' Ἀσωποῖο, καθίσσατο, καὶ οἱ ὄπασσεν
 παρθενίην Ζεὺς αὐτός, ὑποσχεσίησι δολωθείς.
 δὴ γὰρ ὁ μὲν φιλότητος ἐέλδετο· νεῦσε δ' ὄγ' αὐτῇ 95
 δωσέμεναι, ὃ κεν ἦσι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν.
 ἡ δέ ἐ παρθενίην ἡτήσατο κερδοσύνησιν.
 ὥς δὲ καὶ Ἀπόλλωνα παρήπαφεν εὐνηθῆναι
 ἰέμενον, ποταμόν τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς Ἄλυν· οὐδὲ μὲν
 ἀνδρῶν

τῆνγε τις ἱμερτῇσιν ἐν ἀγκοίνησι δάμασσεν.
 ἔνθα δὲ Τρικκαίοιο ἀγανοῦ Δηιμάχοιο
 υἱες, Δηιλέων τε καὶ Αὐτόλυκος Φλογίος τε
 τῆμος ἔθ', Ἡρακλῆος ἀποπλαγχθέντες, ἔναιον·
 οἳ ῥα τόθ', ὥς ἐνόησαν ἀριστήων στόλον ἀνδρῶν,
 σφᾶς αὐτοὺς νημερτὲς ἐπέφραδον ἀντιάσαντες· 96
 οὐδ' ἔτι μιμνάξειν θέλον ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἐνὶ νηί,
 ἀργέσταιο παρᾶσσον ἐπιπνείοντος, ἔβησαν.
 τοῖσι δ' ὁμοῦ μετέπειτα θοῇ πεφορημένοι αὔρη
 λείπον Ἄλυν ποταμόν, λείπον δ' ἀγχίρρου Ἴριν,
 ἡδὲ καὶ Ἀσσυρίης πρόχυσιν χθονός· ἡματι δ' αὐτῷ
 γνάμψαν Ἀμαζονίδων ἕκαθεν λιμενήοχον ἄκρην.

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most gentle river, where the maid, daughter of Leto, when she mounts to heaven after the chase, cools her limbs in its much-desired waters. Then they sped onward in the night without ceasing, and passed Sesamus and lofty Erythini, Crobialus, Cromna and woody Cytorus. Next they swept round Carambis at the rising of the sun, and plied the oars past endless Aegialus, all day and on through the night.

And straightway they landed on the Assyrian shore where Zeus himself gave a home to Sinope, daughter of Asopus, and granted her virginity, beguiled by his own promises. For he longed for her love, and he promised to grant her whatever her heart's desire might be. And she in her craftiness asked of him virginity. And in like manner she deceived Apollo too who longed to wed her, and besides them the river Halys, and no man ever subdued her in love's embrace. And there the sons of noble Deimachus of Tricca were still dwelling, Deileon, Autolycus and Phlogius, since the day when they wandered far away from Heracles; and they, when they marked the array of chieftains, went to meet them and declared in truth who they were; and they wished to remain there no longer, but as soon as Argestes¹ blew went on ship-board. And so with them, borne along by the swift breeze, the heroes left behind the river Halys, and left behind Iris that flows hard by, and the delta-land of Assyria; and on the same day they rounded the distant headland of the Amazons that guards their harbour.

¹ The north-west wind.

Ἐνθα ποτὲ προμολοῦσαν Ἀρητιάδα Μελανίππην
 ἦρως Ἡρακλῆς ἐλοχῆσατο, καὶ οἱ ἄποινα
 Ἱππολύτη ζωστήρα παναίολον ἐγγυάλιξεν
 ἀμφὶ κασιγνήτης· ὁ δ' ἀπήμονα πέμψεν ὀπίσσω.
 τῆς οἴγ' ἐν κόλπῳ, προχοαῖς ἐπὶ Θερμώδοντος, 97
 κέλσαν, ἐπεὶ καὶ πόντος ὀρίνετο νισσομένοισιν.
 τῷ δ' οὔτις ποταμῶν ἐναλίγκιος, οὐδὲ ῥέεθρα
 τόσσ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἴσι παρὲξ ἔθεν ἄνδιχα βάλλων.
 τετράκισ εἰς ἑκατὸν δεύοιτό κεν, εἴ τις ἕκαστα
 πεμπάζοι· μία δ' οἷα ἐτήτυμος ἔπλετο πηγῇ.
 ἢ μὲν τ' ἐξ ὀρέων κατανίσσεται ἠπειρόνδε
 ὑψηλῶν, ἃ τε φασὶν Ἀμαζόνια κλείεσθαι.
 ἔνθεν δ' αἰπυτέρην ἐπικίδνεται ἔνδοθι γαῖαν
 ἀντικρύν· τῷ καὶ οἱ ἐπίστροφοί εἰσι κέλευθοι·
 αἰεὶ δ' ἄλλυδις ἄλλη, ὅπη κύρσειε μάλιστα 98
 ἠπείρου χθαμαλῆς, εἰλίσσεται· ἢ μὲν ἄπωθεν,
 ἢ δὲ πέλας· πολέες δὲ πόροι νώνυμοι ἔασιν,
 ὅππη ὑπεξαφύονται· ὁ δ' ἀμφαδὸν ἄμμιγα παύροις
 Πόντον ἐς Ἀξεινον κυρτὴν ὑπερεύγεται ἄχνην.¹
 καὶ νῦ κε δηθύνοντες Ἀμαζονίδεσσιν ἔμιξαν
 ὑσμίνην, καὶ δ' οὐ κεν ἀναιμωτὶ γ' ἐρίδηναν—
 οὐ γὰρ Ἀμαζονίδες μάλ' ἐπήτιδες, οὐδὲ θέμιστας
 τίουσai πεδίον Δοιάντιον ἀμφενέμοντο·
 ἀλλ' ὕβρις στονόεσσα καὶ Ἄρεος ἔργα μεμήλει·
 δὴ γὰρ καὶ γενεὴν ἔσαν Ἄρεος Ἀρμονίης τε 99
 νύμφης, ἣτ' Ἀρηϊ φιλοπτολέμους τέκε κούρας,
 ἄλσεος Ἀκμονίοιο κατὰ πτύχας εὐνηθεῖσα—
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ἐκ Διόθεν πνοιαί· πάλιν ἀργεστῶ
 ἤλυθον· οἱ δ' ἀνέμῳ περιηγέα κάλλιπον ἀκτὴν.
 εἶθα Θεμισκύρειαί Ἀμαζόνες ὠπλίζοντο.

¹ ἄχνην Ruhnken : ἄκρην MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

Here once when Melanippe, daughter of Ares, had gone forth, the hero Heracles caught her by ambuscade and Hippolyte gave him her glistening girdle as her sister's ransom, and he sent away his captive unharmed. In the bay of this headland, at the outfall of Thermodon, they ran ashore, for the sea was rough for their voyage. No river is like this, and none sends forth from itself such mighty streams over the land. If a man should count every one he would lack but four of a hundred, but the real spring is only one. This flows down to the plain from lofty mountains, which, men say, are called the Amazonian mountains. Thence it spreads inland over a hilly country straight forward; wherefrom its streams go winding on, and they roll on, this way and that ever more, wherever best they can reach the lower ground, one at a distance and another near at hand; and many streams are swallowed up in the sand and are without a name; but, mingled with a few, the main stream openly bursts with its arching crest of foam into the Inhospitable Pontus. And they would have tarried there and have closed in battle with the Amazons, and would have fought not without bloodshed—for the Amazons were not gentle foes and regarded not justice, those dwellers on the Doeantian plain; but grievous insolence and the works of Ares were all their care; for by race they were the daughters of Ares and the nymph Harmonia, who bare to Ares war-loving maids, wedded to him in the glens of the Acmonian wood—had not the breezes of Argestes come again from Zeus; and with the wind they left the rounded beach, where the Themiscyreian Amazons

οὐ γὰρ ὀμηγερέες μίαν ἄμ πόλιν, ἀλλ' ἀνὰ γαῖαν
κεκριμέναι κατὰ φύλα διάτριχα ναιετάασκον·
νόσφι μὲν αἴδ' αὐταί, τῆσιν τότε κοιρανέεσκεν
Ἴππολύτη, νόσφιν δὲ Λυκάστιαι ἀμφενέμοντο,
νόσφι δ' ἀκοντοβόλοι Χαθήσiai. ἤματι δ' ἄλλω 100
νυκτί τ' ἐπιπλομένη Χαλύβων παρὰ γαῖαν ἵκοντο.

Τοῖσι μὲν οὔτε βοῶν ἄροτος μέλει, οὔτε τις ἄλλη
φυταλιὴ καρποῖο μελίφρονος· οἳ δὲ μὲν οἴγε
ποίμνας ἐρσήεντι νομῶ ἐνι ποιμαίνουσιν.
ἀλλὰ σιδηροφόρον στυφελὴν χθόνα γατομέοντες
ᾧνον ἀμείβονται βιοτήσιον, οὐδέ ποτέ σφιν
ἤως ἀντέλλει καμάτων ἄτερ, ἀλλὰ κελαινῇ
λιγνύι καὶ καπνῶ κάματον βαρὺν ὀτλεύουσιν.

Τοὺς δὲ μετ' αὐτίκ' ἔπειτα Γενηταίου Διὸς ἄκρην
γνάμψαντες σώοντο παρέξ Τιβαρηνίδα γαῖαν. 101
ἐνθ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ κε τέκωνται ὑπ' ἀνδράσι τέκνα
γυναῖκες,

αὐτοὶ μὲν στενάχουσιν ἐνὶ λεχέεσσι πεσόντες,
κράατα δησάμενοι· ταὶ δ' εὖ κομέουσιν ἐδῶ ἢ
ἀνέρας, ἡδὲ λοετρὰ λεχώια τοῖσι πένονται.

Ἴρὸν δ' αὐτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ὄρος καὶ γαῖαν ἄμειβον,
ἣ ἐνὶ Μοσσύνοικοι ἂν οὔρεα νμιατάουσιν
μόσσυνας, καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπώνυμοι ἔνθεν ἔασιν.
ἀλλοίη δὲ δίκη καὶ θέσμια τοῖσι τέτυκται.
ὅσσα μὲν ἀμφαδίην ρέζειν θέμις, ἣ ἐνὶ δήμῳ,
ἣ ἀγορῇ, τάδε πάντα δόμοις ἐνὶ μηχανόωνται· 102
ὅσσα δ' ἐνὶ μεγάροις πεπονήμεθα, κείνα θύραζε
ἀψεγέως μέσσησιν ἐνὶ ρέζουσιν ἀγνιαῖς.
οὐδ' εὐνῆς αἰδῶς ἐπιδήμιος, ἀλλά, σῦες ὥς
φορβάδες, οὐδ' ἡβαιὸν ἀτυζόμενοι παρεόντας,
μίσγονται χαμάδις ξυνῇ φιλότῃτι γυναικῶν.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

were arming for war. For they dwelt not gathered together in one city, but scattered over the land, parted into three tribes. In one part dwelt the Themiscyreians, over whom at that time Hippolyte reigned, in another the Lycastians, and in another the dart-throwing Chadesians. And the next day they sped on and at nightfall they reached the land of the Chalybes.

That folk have no care for ploughing with oxen or for any planting of honey-sweet fruit; nor yet do they pasture flocks in the dewy meadow. But they cleave the hard iron-bearing land and exchange their wages for daily sustenance; never does the morn rise for them without toil, but amid bleak sooty flames and smoke they endure heavy labour.

And straightway thereafter they rounded the headland of Genetaean Zeus and sped safely past the land of the Tibareni. Here when wives bring forth children to their husbands, the men lie in bed and groan with their heads close bound; but the women tend them with food, and prepare child-birth baths for them.

Next they reached the sacred mount and the land where the Mossynoeci dwell amid high mountains in wooden huts,¹ from which that people take their name. And strange are their customs and laws. Whatever it is right to do openly before the people or in the market place, all this they do in their homes, but whatever acts we perform at home, these they perform out of doors in the midst of the streets, without blame. And among them is no reverence for the marriage-bed, but, like swine that feed in herds, no whit abashed in others' presence, on the

¹ called "Mossynes,"

αὐτὰρ ἐν ὑψίστῳ βασιλεὺς μόσσυι θαάσσω
ἰθείας πολέεσσι δίκας λαοῖσι δικάζει,
σχέτλιος. ἦν γάρ πού τι θεμιστεύων ἀλίτῃται,
λιμῷ μιν κείν' ἡμαρ ἐνικλείσαντες ἔχουσιν.

Τοὺς παρανισσόμενοι καὶ δὴ σχεδὸν ἀντιπέρηθεν 103
νῆσου Ἀρητιάδος τέμνον πλόον εἰρεσίησιν
ἡμάτιοι· λιαρὴ γὰρ ὑπὸ κνέφας ἔλλιπεν αὖρη.
ἤδη καὶ τιν' ὑπερθεν Ἀρήιον αἶσσοντα
ἐνναέτην νήσοιο δι' ἡέρος ὄρνιν ἴδοντο,
ὅς ῥα τιναζάμενος πτέρυγας κατὰ νῆα θέουσιν
ἦκ' ἐπὶ οἱ πτερὸν ὀξύ· τὸ δ' ἐν λαιῷ πέσεν ὤμῳ
δίου Ὀϊλῆος· μεθέηκε δὲ χερσὶν ἐρετμὸν
βλήμενος· οἱ δὲ τάφον πτερόεν βέλος εἰσορόωντες.
καὶ τὸ μὲν ἐξεύρυσσε παρεδριόων Ἐριβώτης,
ἔλκος δὲ ξυνέδησεν, ἀπὸ σφετέρου κολεοῖο 104
λυσάμενος τελαμῶνα κατήγορον· ἐκ δ' ἐφαάνθη
ἄλλος ἐπὶ προτέρῳ πεποτημένος· ἀλλὰ μιν ἦρως
Εὐρυτίδης Κλυτίος—πρὸ γὰρ ἀγκύλα τείνατο
τόξα,

ἦκε δ' ἐπ' οἰωνὸν ταχινὸν βέλος—αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
πλήξεν· δινηθεὶς δὲ θοῆς πέσεν ἀγχόθι νηός.
τοῖσιν δ' Ἀμφιδάμας μυθήσατο, παῖς Ἀλεοῖο·

‘Νῆσος μὲν πέλας ἡμῖν Ἀρητιάς· ἴστε καὶ αὐτοὶ
τούσδ' ὄρνιθας ἰδόντες. ἐγὼ δ' οὐκ ἔλπομαι ἰὺς
τόσσον ἐπαρκέσσειν εἰς ἔκβασιν. ἀλλὰ τιν' ἄλλην 105
μῆτιν πορσύνωμεν ἐπίρροθον, εἴ γ' ἐπικέλσαι
μέλλετε, Φινῆος μεμνημένοι, ὡς ἐπέτελλεν.
οὐδὲ γὰρ Ἡρακλῆς, ὅπότε ἦλυθεν Ἀρκαδίῃ δε,
πλωίδας ὄρνιθας Στυμφαλίδας ἔσθene λίμνης
ὥσασθαι τόξοισι, τὸ μὲν τ' ἐγὼ αὐτὸς ὅπωπα.
ἀλλ' ὅγε χαλκείην πλατάγην ἐνὶ χερσὶ τινάσσω
δούπει ἐπὶ σκοπιῇς περιμήκεος· αἱ δ' ἐφέβοντο

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earth they lie with the women. Their king sits in the loftiest hut and dispenses upright judgments to the multitude, poor wretch ! For if haply he err at all in his decrees, for that day they keep him shut up in starvation.

They passed them by and cleft their way with oars over against the island of Ares all day long ; for at dusk the light breeze left them. At last they spied above them, hurtling through the air, one of the birds of Ares which haunt that isle. It shook its wings down over the ship as she sped on and sent against her a keen feather, and it fell on the left shoulder of goodly Oileus, and he dropped his oar from his hands at the sudden blow, and his comrades marvelled at the sight of the winged bolt. And Eribotes from his seat hard by drew out the feather, and bound up the wound when he had loosed the strap hanging from his own sword-sheath ; and besides the first, another bird appeared swooping down ; but the hero Clytius, son of Eurytus—for he bent his curved bow, and sped a swift arrow against the bird—struck it, and it whirled round and fell close to the ship. And to them spake Amphidamas, son of Aleus :

“ The island of Ares is near us ; you know it yourselves now that ye have seen these birds. But little will arrows avail us, I trow, for landing. But let us contrive some other device to help us, if ye intend to land, bearing in mind the injunction of Phineus. For not even could Heracles, when he came to Arcadia, drive away with bow and arrow the birds that swam on the Stymphalian lake. I saw it myself. But he shook in his hand a rattle of bronze and made a loud clatter as he stood upon a lofty

τηλοῦ, ἀτυζηλῶ ὑπὸ δείματι κεκληγυῖαι.
 τῷ καὶ νῦν τοίην τιν' ἐπιφραζώμεθα μῆτιν·
 αὐτὸς δ' ἂν τὸ πάροιθεν ἐπιφρασθεὶς ἐνέποιμι.
 ἀνθέμενοι κεφαλῇσιν ἁερσιλόφους τρυφαλείας,
 1060 ἡμίσεες μὲν ἐρέσσετ' ἀμοιβαδὶς, ἡμίσεες δὲ
 δούρασί τε ξυστοῖσι καὶ ἀσπίσιν ἄρσετε νῆα.
 αὐτὰρ πασσυδίῃ περιώσιον ὄρνυτ' αὐτὴν
 ἀθρόοι, ὄφρα κολῶν ἀηθείῃ φοβέωνται
 νεύοντάς τε λόφους καὶ ἐπήορα δούραθ' ὕπερθεν.
 εἰ δέ κεν αὐτὴν νῆσον ἰκώμεθα, δὴ τὸτ' ἔπειτα
 σὺν κελάδῳ σακέεσσι πελώριον ὄρσετε δοῦπον.
 Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ' ἐπίρροθος ἦνδανε
 μῆτις.

ἀμφὶ δὲ χαλκείας κόρυθας κεφαλῇσιν ἔθεντο
 δεινὸν λαμπομένας, ἐπὶ δὲ λόφοι ἐσσεύοντο
 1070 φοινίκεοι. καὶ τοὶ μὲν ἀμοιβήδην ἐλάασκον·
 τοὶ δ' αὐτ' ἐγχείησι καὶ ἀσπίσι νῆ' ἐκάλυψαν.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τις κεράμῳ κατερέψεται ἐρκίον ἀνὴρ,
 δώματος ἀγλαΐην τε καὶ ὑετοῦ ἔμμεναι ἄλκαρ,
 ἄλλω δ' ἔμπεδον ἄλλος ὁμῶς ἐπαμοιβὸς ἄρηρεν·
 ὥς οἷγ' ἀσπίσι νῆα συναρτύναντες ἔρεψαν.
 οἷη δὲ κλαγγὴ δῆου πέλει ἐξ ὁμάδοιο
 ἀνδρῶν κινυμένων, ὅποτε ξυνίωσι φάλαγγες,
 τοίη ἄρ' ὑψόθι νηὸς ἐς ἡέρα κίδιαιτ' αὐτή.
 οὐδέ τιν' οἰωνῶν ἔτ' ἐσέδρακον, ἀλλ' ὅτε νήσω
 1080 χρίμψαντες σακέεσσιν ἐπέκτυπον, αὐτίκ' ἄρ' οἷγε
 μυρίοι ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα πεφυζότες ἠερέθοντο.
 ὥς δ' ὅποτε Κρονίδης πυκινὴν ἐφέηκε χάλαζαν
 ἐκ νεφέων ἀνά τ' ἄστνυ καὶ οἰκία, τοὶ δ' ὑπὸ τοῖσιν
 ἐνναέται κόναβον τεγέων ὕπερ εἰσαίοντες
 ἦνται ἀκὴν, ἐπεὶ οὐ σφε κατέλλαβε χείματος ὥρη
 ἀπροφάτως, ἀλλὰ πρὶν ἐκαρτύναντο μέλαθρον·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK 11

peak, and the birds fled far off, screeching in bewildered fear. Wherefore now too let us contrive some such device, and I myself will speak, having pondered the matter beforehand. Set on your heads your helmets of lofty crest, then half row by turns, and half fence the ship about with polished spears and shields. Then all together raise a mighty shout so that the birds may be scared by the unwonted din, the nodding crests, and the uplifted spears on high. And if we reach the island itself, then make mighty noise with the clashing of shields."

Thus he spake, and the helpful device pleased all. And on their heads they placed helmets of bronze, gleaming terribly, and the blood-red crests were tossing. And half of them rowed in turn, and the rest covered the ship with spears and shields. And as when a man roofs over a house with tiles, to be an ornament of his home and a defence against rain, and one tile fits firmly into another, each after each; so they roofed over the ship with their shields, locking them together. And as a din arises from a warrior-host of men sweeping on, when lines of battle meet, such a shout rose upward from the ship into the air. Now they saw none of the birds yet, but when they touched the island and clashed upon their shields, then the birds in countless numbers rose in flight hither and thither. And as when the son of Cronos sends from the clouds a dense hail-storm on city and houses, and the people who dwell beneath hear the din above the roof and sit quietly, since the stormy season has not come upon them unawares, but they have first made strong their roofs; so the birds sent against the heroes a thick

ὥς πυκινὰ πτερὰ τοῖσιν ἐφίεσαν αἰσسونτες
ὑψι μάλ' ἄμ πέλαγος περάτης εἰς οὖρεα γαίης.

Τίς γὰρ δὴ Φινῆος ἦν νόος, ἐνθάδε κέλσαι
ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων θεῖον στόλον; ἥ καὶ ἔπειτα
ποῖον ὄνειαρ ἔμελλεν ἐελδομένοισιν ἰκέσθαι;

Τίηες Φρίξοιο μετὰ πτόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο
ἐξ Αἴης ἐνέοντο παρ' Αἰήταο Κυταίου,
Κολχίδα νῆ' ἐπιβάντες, ἵν' ἄσπετον ὄλβον ἄρωνται
πατρός· ὁ γὰρ θνησκῶν ἐπετείλατο τήνδε κέλευθον.
καὶ δὴ ἔσαν νήσοιο μάλα σχεδὸν ἡματι κείνῳ.

Ζεὺς δ' ἀνέμου βορέας μένος κίνησεν ἀῆραι,
ὔδατι σημαίνων διερὴν ὁδὸν Ἀρκτούροιο·
αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἡμάτιος μὲν ἐν οὖρεσι φύλλ' ἐτίνασσε

τυτθὸν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισιν ἀήσυρος ἀκρεμόνεσσιν·
νυκτὶ δ' ἔβη πόντονδε πελώριος, ὥρσε δὲ κύμα
κεκληγῶς πνοιῇσι· κελαινὴ δ' οὐρανὸν ἀχλὺς
ἄμπεχεν, οὐδέ πη ἄστρα διανυγέα φαίνεται ἰδέσθαι
ἐκ νεφέων, σκοτόεις δὲ περὶ ζόφος ἡρήρειστο.

οἱ δ' ἄρα μυδαλέοι, στυγερὸν τρομέοντες ὄλεθρον,
νιῆες Φρίξοιο φέρονθ' ὑπὸ κύμασιν αὐτῶς.

ἰστία δ' ἐξήρπαξ' ἀνέμου μένος, ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτὴν
νῆα διάνδιχ' ἔαξε τινασσομένην ῥοθίοισιν.

ἐνθα δ' ὑπ' ἐννεσίησι θεῶν πίσυρές περ' εἶοντες
δούρατος ὠρέξαντο πελωρίου, οἷά τε πολλὰ
ῥαισθείσης κεκέδαστο θοοῖς συναρρηρότα γόμφοις.

καὶ τοὺς μὲν νησόνδε, παρὲξ ὀλίγον θανάτοιο,
κύματα καὶ ῥιπαὶ ἀνέμου φέρον ἀσχαλόνοντας.
αὐτίκα δ' ἐρράγη ὄμβρος ἀθέσφατος, ὕε δὲ πόντος
καὶ νῆσον καὶ πᾶσαν ὅσην κατεναντία νήσου
χώρην Μοσσύνοικοι ὑπέρβιοι ἀμφενέμοντο.

τοὺς δ' ἄμνυδις κρατερῶ σὺν δούρατι κύματος ὀρμή

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shower of feather-shafts as they darted over the sea to the mountains of the land opposite.

What then was the purpose of Phineus in bidding the divine band of heroes land there? Or what kind of help was about to meet their desire?

The sons of Phrixus were faring towards the city of Orchomenus from Aea, coming from Cytaean Aetes, on board a Colchian ship, to win the boundless wealth of their father; for he, when dying, had enjoined this journey upon them. And lo, on that day they were very near that island. But Zeus had impelled the north wind's might to blow, marking by rain the moist path of Arcturus; and all day long he was stirring the leaves upon the mountains, breathing gently upon the topmost sprays; but at night he rushed upon the sea with monstrous force, and with his shrieking blasts uplifted the surge; and a dark mist covered the heavens, nor did the bright stars anywhere appear from among the clouds, but a murky gloom brooded all around. And so the sons of Phrixus, drenched and trembling in fear of a horrible doom, were borne along by the waves helplessly. And the force of the wind had snatched away their sails and shattered in twain the hull, tossed as it was by the breakers. And hereupon by heaven's prompting those four clutched a huge beam, one of many that were scattered about, held together by sharp bolts, when the ship broke to pieces. And on to the island the waves and the blasts of wind bore the men in their distress, within a little of death. And straightway a mighty rain burst forth, and rained upon the sea and the island, and all the country opposite the island, where the arrogant Mossynoeci dwelt. And the sweep of

υῖῆας Φρίξοιο μετ' ἡϊόνας βάλε νήσου
νύχθ' ὑπο λυγαίην· τὸ δὲ μυρίον ἐκ Διὸς ὕδωρ 11
λῆξεν ἅμ' ἡελίῳ· τάχα δ' ἐγγύθεν ἀντεβόλησαν
ἀλλήλοισι, Ἄργος δὲ παροίτατος ἔκφατο μῦθον·

‘Αντόμεθα πρὸς Ζηνὸς Ἐποψίου, οἵτινές ἐστε
ἀνδρῶν, εὐμενέειν τε καὶ ἀρκέσσαι χατέουσιν.

πόντῳ γὰρ τρηχεῖαι ἐπιβρίσασαι ἅελλαι
νῆος ἀεικελῆς διὰ δούρατα πάντ' ἐκέδασσαν
ἧ ἔνι πείρομεν οἶμον¹ ἐπὶ χρέος ἐμβεβαῶτες.
τύνεκα νῦν ὑμέας γουναζόμεθ', αἶ κε πίθησθε,
δοῦναι ὅσον τ' εἴλυμα περὶ χροός, ἡδὲ κομίσσαι 11
ἀνέρας οἰκτείραντας ὁμήλικας ἐν κακότητι.
ἀλλ' ἰκέτας ξείνους Διὸς εἵνεκεν αἰδέσασσθε
Ξεινίου Ἰκεσίου τε· Διὸς δ' ἄμφω ἰκέται τε
καὶ ξεῖνοι· ὁ δὲ πον καὶ ἐπόψιος ἄμμι τέτυκται.’

Τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἐπιφραδέως ἐρέεινεν,
μαντοσύνας Φινῆος οἰσσύμενος τελέεσθαι·

‘Ταῦτα μὲν αὐτίκα πάντα παρέξομεν εὐμενέοντες.
ἀλλ' ἄγε μοι κατάλεξον ἐτήτυμον, ὅπποθι γαίης
ναίετε, καὶ χρέος οἶον ὑπεῖρ ἅλα νεῖσθαι ἀνώγει,
αὐτῶν θ' ὑμείων ὄνομα κλυτόν, ἡδὲ γενέθλην.’

Τὸν δ' Ἄργος προσέειπεν ἀμηχανέων κακότητι· 11
‘Αἰολίδην Φρίξον τιν' ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος Αἴαν ἰκέσθαι
ἀτρεκέως δοκέω που ἀκούετε καὶ πάρος αὐτοί,
Φρίξον, ὅτις πτολίεθρον ἀνήλυθεν Αἰήταο,
κριοῦ ἐπεμβεβαώς, τόν ῥα χρύσειον ἔθηκεν
Ἑρμείας· κῶας δὲ καὶ εἰσέτι νῦν κεν ἴδοισθε.²
τὸν μὲν ἔπειτ' ἔρρεξεν ἐῆς ὑποθημοσύνησιν

¹ πείρομεν οἶμον Merkel : τειρόμενοι ἅμ' MSS.

² After this line the MSS. have the line 1270 below.
Brunck first expelled it from here, putting a stop at the end
of the preceding line.

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the waves hurled the sons of Phrixus, together with their massy beam, upon the beach of the island, in the murky night; and the floods of rain from Zeus ceased at sunrise, and soon the two bands drew near and met each other, and Argus spoke first :

“ We beseech you, by Zeus the Beholder, whoever ye are, to be kindly and to help us in our need. For fierce tempests, falling on the sea, have shattered all the timbers of the crazy ship in which we were cleaving our path on business bent. Wherefore we entreat you, if haply ye will listen; to grant us just a covering for our bodies, and to pity and succour men in misfortune, your equals in age. Oh, reverence suppliants and strangers for Zeus’ sake, the god of strangers and suppliants. To Zeus belong both suppliants and strangers; and his eye, methinks, beholdeth even us.”

And in reply the son of Aeson prudently questioned him, deeming that the prophecies of Phineus were being fulfilled: “ All these things will we straightway grant you with right good will. But come tell me truly in what country ye dwell and what business bids you sail across the sea, and tell me your own glorious names and lineage.”

And him Argus, helpless in his evil plight, addressed: “ That one Phrixus an Aeolid reached Aea from Hellas you yourselves have clearly heard ere this, I trow; Phrixus, who came to the city of Aetes, bestriding a ram, which Hermes had made all gold; and the fleece ye may see even now. The ram, at its own prompting, he then sacrificed to

Φυξίῳ ἐκ πάντων Κρονίδῃ Διί. καί μιν ἔδεκτο
 Αἰήτης μεγάρῳ, κούρην τέ οἱ ἐγγυάλιξεν
 Χαλκιοπὴν ἀνάεδνον εὐφροσύνησι νόοιο.
 τῶν ἐξ ἀμφοτέρων εἰμὲν γένος. ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἤδη 11
 γηραιὸς θάνε Φρίξος ἐν Αἰήταο δόμοισιν·
 ἡμεῖς δ' αὐτίκα πατρὸς ἐφετμῶν ἀλέγοντες
 νεύμεθ' ἐς Ὀρχομενὸν κτεάνων Ἀθάμαντος ἔκῃτι.
 εἰ δὲ καὶ οὔνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις δεδαῆσθαι,
 τῷδε Κυτίσσωρος πέλει οὔνομα, τῷδ' τε Φρόντις,
 τῷδ' Μέλας· ἐμὲ δ' αὐτὸν ἐπικλείοιτέ κεν Ἄργον.'

Ὡς φάτ'· ἀριστῆες δὲ συνηβολίῃ κεχάροντο,
 καὶ σφεας ἀμφίεπον περιθαμβέες. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
 ἐξαὐτίς κατὰ μοῖραν ἀμείψατο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·

Ἥ ἄρα δὴ γνωτοὶ πατρώιοι ἄμμιν ἑόντες 11
 λίσσεσθ' εὐμενέοντας ἐπαρκέσσαι κακότητα.
 Κρηθεὺς γάρ ῥ' Ἀθάμας τε κασίγνητοι γεγάασιν.
 Κρηθῆος δ' υἱὸν ἐγὼ σὺν τοισίδ' ἐταίροις
 Ἑλλάδος ἐξ αὐτῆς νέομ' ἐς πόλιν Αἰήταο.
 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν καὶ ἐσαῦτις ἐνίψομεν ἀλλήλοισιν.
 νῦν δ' ἔσασθε πάροιθεν. ὑπ' ἐννεσίῃσι δ' οἴω
 ἀθανάτων ἐς χεῖρας ἐμὰς χατέοντας ἰκέσθαι.'

Ἡ ῥα, καὶ ἐκ νηὸς δῶκέ σφισιν εἴματα δῦναι.
 πασσυδίῃ δ' ἠπειτα κίον μετὰ νηὸν Ἄρηος,
 μῆλ' ἱερευσόμενοι· περὶ δ' ἐσχάρῃ ἐστήσαντο 11
 ἐσσυμένως, ἥτ' ἐκτὸς ἀνηρεφέος πέλε νηοῦ
 στιύων· εἶσω δὲ μέγας λίθος ἠρήρειστο
 ἱερός, ᾧ ποτε πᾶσαι Ἀμαζόνες εὐχετόωντο.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

Zeus, son of Cronos, above all, the god of fugitives. And him did Aeetes receive in his palace, and with gladness of heart gave him his daughter Chalciope in marriage without gifts of wooing.¹ From those two are we sprung. But Phrixus died at last, an aged man, in the home of Aeetes; and we, giving heed to our father's behests, are journeying to Orchomenus to take the possessions of Athamas. And if thou dost desire to learn our names, this is Cytissorus, this Phrontis, and this Melas, and me ye may call Argus."

Thus he spake, and the chieftains rejoiced at the meeting, and tended them, much marvelling. And Jason again in turn replied, as was fitting, with these words :

"Surely ye are our kinsmen on my father's side, and ye pray that with kindly hearts we succour your evil plight. For Cretheus and Athamas were brothers. I am the grandson of Cretheus, and with these comrades here I am journeying from that same Hellas to the city of Aeetes. But of these things we will converse hereafter. And do ye first put clothing upon you. By heaven's devising, I ween, have ye come to my hands in your sore need."

He spake, and out of the ship gave them raiment to put on. Then all together they went to the temple of Ares to offer sacrifice of sheep; and in haste they stood round the altar, which was outside the roofless temple, an altar built of pebbles; within a black stone stood fixed, a sacred thing, to which of yore the Amazons all used to pray. Nor was it

¹ *i.e.* without exacting gifts from the bridegroom. So in the *Iliad* (ix. 146) Agamemnon offers Achilles any of his three daughters *ἀντάδνος*,

οὐδέ σφιν θέμις ἦεν, ὅτ' ἀντιπέρηθεν ἴκοιντο,
μήλων τ' ἠδὲ βοῶν τῇδ' ἐσχάρη ἱερὰ καίειν·
ἀλλ' ἵππους δαίτρενον, ἐπηετανὸν κομέουσαι.
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ ῥέξαντες ἐπαρτέα δαῖτ' ἐπάσαντο,
δὴ τότε ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης μετεφώνεεν, ἥρχέ τε μύθων·
 'Ζεὺς αὐτὸς¹ τὰ ἕκαστ' ἐπιδέρκεται· οὐδέ μιν
 ἄνδρες

λήθομεν ἔμπεδον, οἳ τε θεουδέες ἠδὲ² δίκαιοι.
ὥς μὲν γὰρ πατέρ' ὕμὸν ὑπεξείρυτο φόνοιο
μητρυνῆς, καὶ νύσφιν ἀπειρέσιον πόρεν ὄλβον·
ὥς δὲ καὶ ὑμέας αὐτὶς ἀπήμονας ἐξεσάωσεν
χείματος οὐλομένοιο. πάρεστι δὲ τῇσδ' ἐπὶ νηὸς
ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα νέεσθαι, ὅπη φίλον, εἴτε μετ' Αἴαν,
εἴτε μετ' ἀφνειὴν θείου πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο.
τὴν γὰρ Ἀθηναίη τεχνήσατο, καὶ τάμε χαλκῶ
δούρατα Πηλιάδος κορυφῆς πέρι· σὺν δὲ οἱ Ἄργος
τεύξεν. ἀτὰρ κείνην γε κακὸν διὰ κῦμ' ἐκέδασσεν,
πρὶν καὶ πετράων σχεδὸν ἔλθειν αἴτ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
στενωπῶ συνίασι πανήμεροι ἀλλήλησιν.
ἀλλ' ἄγεθ' ὧδε καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐς Ἑλλάδα μαιομένοισιν
κῶας ἄγειν χρύσειον ἐπίρροθοι ἄμμι πέλεσθε
καὶ πλόου ἡγεμονῆες, ἐπεὶ Φρίξοιο θυηλὰς
στέλλομαι ἀμπλήσων, Ζηνὸς χόλον Αἰολίδησιν.'

Ἰσκε παρηγορέων· οἳ δ' ἔστυγον εἰσαῖοντες.
οὐ γὰρ ἔφαν τεύξεσθαι ἐνηέος Αἰήταο
κῶας ἄγειν κριοῖο μεμαότας, ὧδε δ' ἔειπεν
Ἄργος, ἀτεμβόμενος τοῖον στόλον ἀμφιπένεσθαι·
 'Ω φίλοι, ἡμέτερον μὲν ὅσον σθένος, οὐποτ'
 ἀρωγῆς

σχήσεται, οὐδ' ἡβαιόν, ὅτε χρεῖώ τις ἵκηται.

¹ αἰτὸς one Vatican, all the Parisian : αἰτεῖ LG.

² ἠδὲ Stephanus : οὐδὲ MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

lawful for them, when they came from the opposite coast, to burn on this altar offerings of sheep and oxen, but they used to slay horses which they kept in great herds. Now when they had sacrificed and eaten the feast prepared, then Aeson's son spake among them and thus began :

“ Zeus' self, I ween, beholds everything ; nor do we men escape his eye, we that be god-fearing and just, for as he rescued your father from the hands of a murderous step-dame and gave him measureless wealth besides ; even so hath he saved you harmless from the baleful storm. And on board this ship ye may sail hither and thither, where ye will, whether to Aea or to the wealthy city of divine Orchomenus. For our ship Athena built and with axe of bronze cut her timbers near the crest of Pelion, and with the goddess wrought Argus. But yours the fierce surge hath shattered, before ye came nigh to the rocks which all day long clash together in the straits of the sea. But come, be yourselves our helpers, for we are eager to bring to Hellas the golden fleece, and guide us on our voyage, for I go to atone for the intended sacrifice of Phrixus, the cause of Zeus' wrath against the sons of Aeolus.”

He spake with soothing words ; but horror seized them when they heard. For they deemed that they would not find Aeetes friendly if they desired to take away the ram's fleece. And Argus spake as follows, vexed that they should busy themselves with such a quest :

“ My friends, our strength, so far as it avails, shall never cease to help you, not one whit, when need

ἀλλ' αἰνῶς ὀλοῇσιν ἀπηνείησιν ἄρηρεν
 Αἰήτης· τῷ καὶ περιδείδια ναυτίλλεσθαι.
 στεῦται δ' Ἑλίου γόνος ἔμμεναι· ἀμφὶ δὲ Κόλχων
 ἔθνεα ναιετάουσιν ἀπείρονα· καὶ δέ κεν Ἄρει
 σμερδαλέην ἐνοπὴν μέγα τε σθένος ἰσοφαρίζοι.
 οὐ μὰν οὐδ' ἀπάνενθεν ἐλεῖν δέρος Αἰήταο
 ῥήιδιον, τοῖός μιν ὄφρις περί τ' ἀμφί τ' ἔρυται
 ἀθάνατος καὶ ἄυπνος, ὃν αὐτὴ Γαῖ' ἀνέφυσεν
 Καυκάσου ἐν κνημοῖσι, Τυφαιονίῃ ὅθι πέτρη,
 ἔνθα Τυφάονά φασι Διὸς Κρονίδαο κεραυνῷ
 βλήμενον, ὁππότε οἱ στιβαρὰς ἐπορέξατο χεῖρας,
 θερμὸν ἀπὸ κρατὸς στάξαι φόνον· ἴκετο δ' αὐτῶς
 οὔρεα καὶ πεδίου Νυσηίου, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
 κεῖται ὑποβρύχιος Σερβωνίδος ὕδασι λίμνης·

1210

ᾧ Ως ἄρ' ἔφη· πολέεσσι δ' ἐπὶ χλόος εἶλε παρειὰς
 αὐτίκα, τοῖον ἄεθλον ὅτ' ἔκλυον· αἶψα δὲ Πηλεὺς
 θαρσαλέοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀμείψατο, φώνησέν τε·

Ἐμὲ δ' οὕτως, ἡθεῖε, λήν δειδίσσεο θυμῷ.
 οὔτε γὰρ ὧδ' ἀλκὴν ἐπιδευόμεθ', ὥστε χερεῖους
 ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο σὺν ἔντεσι πειρηθῆναι·
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡμέας οἷω ἐπισταμένους πολέμοιο
 κείσε μολεῖν, μακάρων σχεδὸν αἵματος ἐκγεγαῶτας.
 τῷ εἰ μὴ φιλότῃτι δέρος χρύσειον ὀπάσσει,
 οὐ οἱ χραισμήσειν ἐπιέλπομαι ἔθνεα Κόλχων·

1220

ᾧ Ως οἷγ' ἀλλήλοισιν ἀμοιβαδὸν ἡγορόωντο,
 μέσφ' αὖτις δόρποιο κορεσσάμενοι κατέδαρθεν.
 ἦρι δ' ἀνεγρομένοισιν ἑυκραῆς ἄεν οὔρος·
 ἰστία δ' ἦειραν, τὰ δ' ὑπαὶ ῥιπῆς ἀνέμοιο
 τείνετο· ῥίμφα δὲ νῆσον ἀποπροέλειπον Ἄρηος.

1230

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

shall come. But Aeetes is terribly armed with deadly ruthlessness; wherefore exceedingly do I dread this voyage. And he boasts himself to be the son of Helios; and all round dwell countless tribes of Colchians; and he might match himself with Ares in his dread war-cry and giant strength. Nay, to seize the fleece in spite of Aeetes is no easy task; so huge a serpent keeps guard round and about it, deathless and sleepless, which Earth herself brought forth on the sides of Caucasus, by the rock of Typhaon, where Typhaon, they say, smitten by the bolt of Zeus, son of Cronos, when he lifted against the god his sturdy hands, dropped from his head hot gore; and in such plight he reached the mountains and plain of Nysa, where to this day he lies whelmed beneath the waters of the Serbonian lake."

Thus he spake, and straightway many a cheek grew pale when they heard of so mighty an adventure. But quickly Peleus answered with cheering words, and thus spake:

"Be not so fearful in spirit, my good friend. For we are not so lacking in prowess as to be no match for Aeetes to try his strength with arms; but I deem that we too are cunning in war, we that go thither, near akin to the blood of the blessed gods. Wherefore if he will not grant us the fleece of gold for friendship's sake, the tribes of the Colchians will not avail him, I ween."

Thus they addressed each other in turn, until again, satisfied with their feast, they turned to rest. And when they rose at dawn a gentle breeze was blowing; and they raised the sails, which strained to the rush of the wind, and quickly they left behind the island of Ares.

Νυκτὶ δ' ἐπιπλομένη Φιλυρηίδα νῆσον ἄμειβον·
 ἔνθα μὲν Οὐρανίδης Φιλύρῃ Κρόνος, εὖτ' ἐν
 Ὀλύμπῳ

Τιτῆνων ἦνασσειν, ὁ δὲ Κρηταῖον ὑπ' ἄντρον
 Ζεὺς ἔτι Κουρήτεσσι μετετρέφετ' Ἰδαίοισιν,
 Ῥεῖην ἔξαπαφών, παρελέξατο· τοὺς δ' ἐνὶ λέκτροις
 τέτμε θεὰ μεσσηγύς· ὁ δ' ἐξ εὐνῆς ἀνορούσας
 ἔσσυτο χαιτήεντι φυῇν ἐναλίγκιος ἵππῳ·
 ἢ δ' αἰδοῖ χῶρόν τε καὶ ἥθεα κείνα λιποῦσα
 Ὠκεανὶς Φιλύρῃ εἰς οὖρεα μακρὰ Πελασγῶν
 ἦλθ', ἵνα δὴ Χείρωνα πελώριον, ἄλλα μὲν ἵππῳ, 124
 ἄλλα θεῷ ἀτάλαντον, ἀμοιβαίῃ τέκεν εὐνῇ.

Κεῖθεν δ' αὖ Μάκρωνας ἀπειρεσίην τε Βεχείρων
 γαῖαν ὑπερφιάλους τε παρεξενέοντο Σάπειρας.
 Βύζηράς τ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν· ἐπιπρὸ γὰρ αἰὲν ἔτεμνον
 ἔσσυμένως, λιαροῖο φορεύμενοι ἐξ ἀνέμοιο.
 καὶ δὴ νισσομένοισι μυχὸς διεφαίνετο πόντου.
 καὶ δὴ Καυκασίων ὀρέων ἀνέτελλον ἐρίπναι
 ἠλίβατοι, τόθι γυῖα περὶ στυφελοῖσι πάγοισιν
 ἰλλόμενος χαλκήρῃσιν ἀλυκτοπέδῃσι Προμηθεὺς
 αἰετὸν ἥπατι φέρβε παλιμπετὲς αἰσسونτα. 125
 τὸν μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτης ἴδον ἔσπερον ὀξεί ροίζῳ
 νηὸς ὑπερπτάμενον νεφέων σχεδόν· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμψης
 λαίφεα πάντ' ἐτίναξε, παραιθύξας πτερύγεσσιν.
 οὐ γὰρ ὄγ' αἰθερίοιο φυὴν ἔχεν οἰωνοῖο,
 ἴσα δ' ἐυξέστοις ὠκύπτερα πάλλεν ἐρετμοῖς.
 δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα πολύστονον αἶον αὐδὴν
 ἦπαρ ἀνελκομένοιο Προμηθέος· ἔκτυπε δ' αἰθῆρ
 οἰμωγῇ, μέσφ' αὖτις ἀπ' οὖρεος αἰσسونτα
 αἰετὸν ὠμηστὴν αὐτὴν ὁδὸν εἰσενόησαν.
 ἐννύχιοι δ' Ἄργοιο δαημοσύνησιν ἴκοντο 126
 Φᾶσιν τ' εὐρὺ ρέοντα, καὶ ἔσχατα πείρατα πόντου.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

And at nightfall they came to the island of Philyra, where Cronos, son of Uranus, what time in Olympus he reigned over the Titans, and Zeus was yet being nurtured in a Cretan cave by the Curetes of Ida, lay beside Philyra, when he had deceived Rhea; and the goddess found them in the midst of their dalliance; and Cronos leapt up from the couch with a rush in the form of a steed with flowing mane, but Ocean's daughter, Philyra, in shame left the spot and those haunts, and came to the long Pelasgian ridges, where by her union with the transfigured deity she brought forth huge Cheiron, half like a horse, half like a god.

Thence they sailed on, past the Macrones and the far-stretching land of the Becheiri and the overweening Sapeires, and after them the Byzeres; for ever forward they clave their way, quickly borne by the gentle breeze. And lo, as they sped on, a deep gulf of the sea was opened, and lo, the steep crags of the Caucasian mountains rose up, where, with his limbs bound upon the hard rocks by galling fetters of bronze, Prometheus fed with his liver an eagle that ever rushed back to its prey. High above the ship at even they saw it flying with a loud whirr, near the clouds; and yet it shook all the sails with the fanning of those huge wings. For it had not the form of a bird of the air but kept poising its long wing-feathers like polished oars. And not long after they heard the bitter cry of Prometheus as his liver was being torn away; and the air rang with his screams until they marked the ravening eagle rushing back from the mountain on the self-same track. And at night, by the skill of Argus, they reached broad-flowing Phasis, and the utmost bourne of the sea.

Αὐτίκα δ' ἰστία μὲν καὶ ἐπίκριον ἔνδοθι κοίλης
 ἰστοδόκης στείλαντες ἐκόσμεον· ἐν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν
 ἰστὸν ἄφαρ χαλάσαντο παρακλιδόν· ὦκα δ' ἔρετ-
 μοῖς

εἰσέλασαν ποταμοῖο μέγαν ῥόον· αὐτὰρ ὁ πάντη
 καχλάζων ὑπόεικεν. ἔχον δ' ἐπ' ἄριστερὰ χειρῶν
 Καύκασον αἰπήεντα Κυταιίδα τε πτόλιν Αἴης,
 ἔνθεν δ' αὖ πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἱερά τ' ἄλση
 τοῖο θεοῦ, τόθι κῶας ὄφεις εἴρυτο δοκεύων
 πεπτάμενον λασίοισιν ἐπὶ δρυὸς ἀκρεμόνεσσιν.
 αὐτὸς δ' Αἰσονίδης χρυσέῳ ποταμόνδε κυπέλλῳ
 οἴνου ἀκηρασίῳ μελισταγέας χέε λειβάς
 Γαίῃ τ' ἐνναέταις τε θεοῖς ψυχαῖς τε καμόντων
 ἡρώων· γουνούτο δ' ἀπήμονας εἶναι ἄρωγους
 εὐμενέως, καὶ νηὸς ἐναίσιμα πείσματα δέχθαι.
 αὐτίκα δ' Ἀγκαῖος τοῖον μετὰ μῦθον εἶπεν·

1270

‘Κολχίδα μὲν δὴ γαῖαν ἰκάνομεν ἡδὲ ῥέεθρα
 Φάσιδος· ὥρῃ δ' ἡμῖν ἐνὶ σφίσι μητιάασθαι,
 εἴτ' οὖν μειλιχίῃ πειρησόμεθ' Αἰήταο,
 εἴτε καὶ ἀλλοίῃ τις ἐπήβολος ἔσσεται ὁρμή.’

1280

ᾧς ἔφατ'· Ἀργου δ' αὖτε παρηγορήσιν Ἰήσων
 ὑψόθι νῆ' ἐκέλευσεν ἐπ' εὐναίῃσιν ἐρύσσαι
 δάσκιον εἰσελάσαντας ἔλος· τὸ δ' ἐπισχεδὸν ἦεν
 νισσομένων, ἔνθ' οἷγε διὰ κνέφας ἡϋλίζοντο.
 ἥως δ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐελδομένοις ἐφάάνθη.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK 11

And straightway they let down the sails and the yard-arm and stowed them inside the hollow mast-crutch, and at once they lowered the mast itself till it lay along; and quickly with oars they entered the mighty stream of the river; and round the prow the water surged as it gave them way. And on their left hand they had lofty Caucasus and the Cytaean city of Aea, and on the other side the plain of Ares and the sacred grove of that god, where the serpent was keeping watch and ward over the fleece as it hung on the leafy branches of an oak. And Aeson's son himself from a golden goblet poured into the river libations of honey and pure wine to Earth and to the gods of the country, and to the souls of dead heroes; and he besought them of their grace to give kindly aid, and to welcome their ship's hawsers with favourable omen. And straightway Ancaeus spake these words :

“We have reached the Colchian land and the stream of Phasis; and it is time for us to take counsel whether we shall make trial of Aeetes with soft words, or an attempt of another kind shall be fitting.”

Thus he spake, and by the advice of Argus Jason bade them enter a shaded backwater and let the ship ride at anchor off shore; and it was near at hand in their course and there they passed the night. And soon the dawn appeared to their expectant eyes.



BOOK III

SUMMARY OF BOOK III

INVOCATION of the Muse, Erato (1-5).—Hera and Athena, after consultation, visit Cypris to ask the aid of her son Eros on behalf of the Argonauts (6-110).—Eros promises to pierce with an arrow Medea, daughter of Aeetes: Jason lays his plans before his comrades (111-209).—Arrival of Jason and a few chosen companions at the palace of Aeetes, which is described: Eros performs his promise (210-298).—Interview between Aeetes and the heroes: Jason undertakes the task imposed by the king as the price of obtaining the golden fleece (299-438).—Anguish of Medea because of her love for Jason (439-470).—On the advice of Argus, it is decided to apply for Medea's aid through Chalciope, mother of Argus and sister of Medea (471-575).—Plans of Aeetes against the Argonauts (576-608).—Medea promises Chalciope to aid her sons and their companions (609-743).—After long hesitation Medea prepares to carry magic drugs to Jason and goes with her attendants to meet him at Hecate's temple (744-911).—Interview

SUMMARY OF BOOK III

of Jason and Medea : return of Medea to the palace (912-1162).—Aeetes hands over the dragon's teeth to Jason's messengers : Jason offers a nocturnal sacrifice to Hecate (1163-1224).—Preparations of Jason : he yokes the fiery bulls, sows the dragon's teeth, and compels the giants who spring up to slay one another, himself joining in the slaughter : the task is accomplished (1225-1407).

Γ

Εἰ δ' ἄγε νῦν, Ἐρατώ, παρά θ' ἵστασο, καί μοι
ἐνισπε,

ἐνθεν ὅπως ἐς Ἴωλκὸν ἀνήγαγε κῶας Ἰήσων
Μηδείης ὑπ' ἔρωτι. σὺ γὰρ καὶ Κύπριδος αἶσαν
ἔμμορες, ἀδμῆτας δὲ τεοῖς μελεδήμασι θέλγεις
παρθενικάς· τῷ καί τοι ἐπήρατον οὔνομ' ἀνῆπται.

ᾧ Ως οἱ μὲν πυκινοῖσιν ἀνωίστως δονάκεσσιν
μῖμνον ἀριστῆες λελοχημένοι· αἱ δ' ἐνόησαν
Ἥρῃ Ἀθηναίῃ τε, Διὸς δ' αὐτοῖο καὶ ἄλλων
ἀθανάτων ἀπονόσφι θεῶν θάλαμόνδε κιοῦσαι
βούλευον· πείραζε δ' Ἀθηναίην πάρος Ἥρῃ.

10

Ἀὐτὴ νῦν προτέρη, θύγατερ Διός, ἄρχεο βουλῆς.
τί χρέος; ἢ δόλον τινὰ μήσεαι, ᾧ κεν ἐλόντες
χρῦσεον Αἰήταο μεθ' Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἄγοιντο,
ἢ καὶ τόνγ' ἐπέεσσι παραιφάμενοι πεπίθοιεν
μειλιχίοις; ἢ γὰρ ὅγ' ὑπερφίαλος πέλει αἰνῶς.
ἔμπηξ δ' οὔτινα πείραν ἀποτρωπᾶσθαι ἔοικεν.'

ᾧ Ως φάτο· τὴν δὲ παρᾶσσον Ἀθηναίη προσέ-
ειπεν·

Ἄ καὶ δ' αὐτὴν ἐμὲ τοῖα μετὰ φρεσὶν ὀρμαίνουσαν,
Ἥρῃ, ἀπηλεγέως ἐξείρεαι. ἀλλὰ τοι οὔπω
φράσσασθαι νοέω τοῦτον δόλον, ὅστις ὀνήσει
θυμὸν ἀριστήων· πολέας δ' ἐπεδοίασα βουλάς.'

20

Ἥ, καὶ ἐπ' οὔδεος αἴγε ποδῶν πάρος ὄμματ'
ἐπηξαν,

BOOK III

COME now, Erato, stand by my side, and say next how Jason brought back the fleece to Iolcus aided by the love of Medea. For thou sharest the power of Cypris, and by thy love-cares dost charm unwedded maidens; wherefore to thee too is attached a name that tells of love.

Thus the heroes, unobserved, were waiting in ambush amid the thick reed-beds; but Hera and Athena took note of them, and, apart from Zeus and the other immortals, entered a chamber and took counsel together; and Hera first made trial of Athena:

“Do thou now first, daughter of Zeus, give advice. What must be done? Wilt thou devise some scheme whereby they may seize the golden fleece of Aetes and bear it to Hellas, or can they deceive the king with soft words and so work persuasion? Of a truth he is terribly overweening. Still it is right to shrink from no endeavour.”

Thus she spake, and at once Athena addressed her: “I too was pondering such thoughts in my heart, Hera, when thou didst ask me outright. But not yet do I think that I have conceived a scheme to aid the courage of the heroes, though I have balanced many plans.”

She ended, and the goddesses fixed their eyes on the ground at their feet, brooding apart; and

ἄνδιχα πορφύρουσαι ἐνὶ σφίσιν· αὐτίκα δ' Ἥρη
τοῖον μητιώσα παροιτέρη ἔκφατο μῦθον·
‘Δεῦρ’ ἴομεν μετὰ Κύπριν· ἐπιπλόμεναι δέ μιν
ἄμφω

παιδὶ ἐὼ εἰπεῖν ὁτρύνομεν, αἶ κε πίθηται
κούρην Αἰήτεω πολυφάρμακον οἷσι βέλεσσιν
θέλξαι οἰστεύσας ἐπ’ Ἱήσωνι. τὸν δ’ ἂν οἶω
κείνης ἐννεσίησιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἀνάξειν.’

Ὡς ἄρ’ ἔφη· πυκινὴ δὲ συνεύαδε μῆτις Ἀθήνη, 30
καὶ μιν ἔπειτ’ ἐξαυτίς ἀμείβετο μελιχίοισιν·
‘Ἥρη, νῆιδα μὲν με πατήρ τέκε τοῖο βολάων,
οὐδέ τινα χρεῖῳ θελκτῆριον οἶδα πύθοιο.
εἰ δέ σοι αὐτῇ μῦθος ἐφανδάνει, ἦ τ’ ἂν ἔγωγε
ἐσποίμην· σὺ δέ κεν φαίης ἔπος ἀντιόωσα.’

Ἦ, καὶ ἀναίξασαι ἐπὶ μέγα δῶμα νέοντο
Κύπριδος, ὃ ρά τέ οἱ δεῖμεν πόσις ἀμφιγυῆεις,
ὅπποτε μιν τὰ πρῶτα παρὰ Διὸς ἦγεν ἄκοιτιν.
ἔρκεα δ’ εἰσελθοῦσαι ὑπ’ αἰθούσῃ θαλάμοιο
ἔσταν, ἵν’ ἐντύνεσκε θεὰ λέχος Ἥφαίστοιο. 40
ἀλλ’ ὃ μὲν ἐς χαλκεῶνα καὶ ἄκμονας ἦρι βεβήκει,
νῆσοιο πλαγκτῆς εὐρὺν μυχόν, ᾧ ἐνὶ πάντα
δαίδαλα χάλκευεν ῥιπῇ πυρός· ἡ δ’ ἄρα μούνη
ἦστο δόμῳ δινωτὸν ἀνὰ θρόνον, ἅντα θυράων.
λευκοῖσιν δ’ ἐκάτερθε κόμας ἐπιειμένη ὤμοις
κόσμει χρυσεῖη διὰ κερκίδι, μέλλε δὲ μακροῦς
πλέξασθαι πλοκάμους· τὰς δὲ προπάρειθεν ἰδοῦσα
ἔσχεθεν, εἶσω τέ σφ’ ἐκάλει, καὶ ἀπὸ θρόνου ὤρτο,
εἰσέ τ’ ἐνὶ κλισμοῖσιν· ἀτὰρ μετέπειτα καὶ αὐτὴ
ἵζανεν, ἀψήκτους δὲ χεροῖν ἀνεδήσατο χαίτας. 50
τοῖα δὲ μειδιόωσα προσέννεπεν αἰμυλίοισιν·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

straightway Hera was the first to speak her thought :
“Come, let us go to Cypris; let both of us accost her
and urge her to bid her son (if only he will obey)
speed his shaft at the daughter of Aetes, the
enchantress, and charm her with love for Jason.
And I deem that by her device he will bring back
the fleece to Hellas.”

Thus she spake, and the prudent plan pleased
Athena, and she addressed her in reply with gentle
words :

“Hera, my father begat me to be a stranger to
the darts of love, nor do I know any charm to work
desire. But if the word pleases thee, surely I will
follow ; but thou must speak when we meet her.”

So she said, and starting forth they came to the
mighty palace of Cypris, which her husband, the
halt-footed god, had built for her when first he
brought her from Zeus to be his wife. And entering
the court they stood beneath the gallery of the
chamber where the goddess prepared the couch of
Hephaestus. But he had gone early to his forge
and anvils to a broad cavern in a floating island where
with the blast of flame he wrought all manner of
curious work ; and she all alone was sitting within, on
an inlaid seat facing the door. And her white
shoulders on each side were covered with the mantle
of her hair and she was parting it with a golden
comb and about to braid up the long tresses ; but
when she saw the goddesses before her, she stayed
and called them within, and rose from her seat and
placed them on couches. Then she herself sat
down, and with her hands gathered up the locks
still uncombed. And smiling she addressed them
with crafty words :

‘ Ἡθεῖαι, τίς δεῦρο νόος χρειώ τε κομίζει
 δηναιὰς αὐτῶς; τί δ’ ἰκάνετον, οὔτι πάρος γε
 λῆν φοιτίζουσαι, ἐπεὶ περίεστε θεάων;’

Τὴν δ’ Ἥρῃ τοίοισιν ἀμειβομένη προσέειπεν·
 ‘Κερτομέεις· νῶιν δὲ κέαρ συνορίνεται ἄτῃ.
 ἤδη γὰρ ποταμῷ ἐνὶ Φάσιδι νῆα κατίσχει
 Αἰσονίδης, ἡδ’ ἄλλοι ὅσοι μετὰ κῶας ἔπονται.
 τῶν ἦτοι πάντων μὲν, ἐπεὶ πέλας ἔργον ὄρωρεν,
 δειδόμεν ἐκπάγλως, περὶ δ’ Αἰσονίδαο μάλιστα.
 τὸν μὲν ἐγὼν, εἰ καὶ περ ἐς Ἴαιδα ναυτίλληται
 λυσόμενος χαλκέων Ἰξίονα νειόθι δεσμῶν,
 ῥύσομαι, ὅσσον ἐμοῖσιν ἐνὶ σθένος ἔπλετο γυίοις,
 ὄφρα μὴ ἐγγελάσῃ Πελὶς κακὸν οἶτον ἀλύξας,
 ὅς μ’ ὑπερηνορέῃ θυεῶν ἀγέραστον ἔθηκεν.
 καὶ δ’ ἄλλως ἔτι καὶ πρὶν ἐμοὶ μέγα φίλατ’ Ἰήσων
 ἐξότ’ ἐπὶ προχοῇσιν ἄλις πλήθοντος Ἀναύρου
 ἀνδρῶν εὐνομίας πειρωμένη ἀντεβόλησεν
 θήρης ἐξανιών· νιφετῷ δ’ ἐπαλύνετο πάντα
 οὔρεα καὶ σκοπιαί· περιμήκεες, οἱ δὲ κατ’ αὐτῶν
 χείμαρροι καναχηδὰ κυλινδόμενοι φορέοντο.
 γρηὶ δέ μ’ εἰσαμένην ὀλοφύρατο, καί μ’ ἀναείρας
 αὐτὸς ἐοῖς ὥμοισι διέκ προαλὲς φέρειν ὕδωρ.
 τῷ νύ μοι ἄλληκτον περιτίεται· οὐδέ κε λώβην
 τίσειεν Πελὶς, εἰ μὴ σύ γε νόστον ὀπίσσεις.’

Ὡς ἡὔδα· Κύπριν δ’ ἐνεοστασίῃ λάβε μύθων.
 ἄζετο δ’ ἀντομένην Ἥρην ἔθεν εἰσορόωσα,
 καὶ μιν ἔπειτ’ ἀγανοῖσι προσέννεπεν ἥγ’ ἐπέεσσιν·
 ‘Πότνα θεά, μὴ τοί τι κακώτερον ἄλλο πέλοιτο
 Κύπριδος, εἰ δὴ σείο λιλαιομένης ἀθερίζω
 ἢ ἔπος ἢ τι ἔργον, ὃ κεν χέρες αἴγε κάμοιεν
 ἡπεδαναί· καὶ μὴ τις ἀμοιβαίῃ χάρις ἔστω.’

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

“Good friends, what intent, what occasion brings you here after so long? Why have ye come, not too frequent visitors before, chief among goddesses that ye are?”

And to her Hera replied: “Thou dost mock us, but our hearts are stirred with calamity. For already on the river Phasis the son of Aeson moors his ship, he and his comrades in quest of the fleece. For all their sakes we fear terribly (for the task is nigh at hand) but most for Aeson’s son. Him will I deliver, though he sail even to Hades to free Ixion below from his brazen chains, as far as strength lies in my limbs, so that Pelias may not mock at having escaped an evil doom—Pelias who left me unhonoured with sacrifice. Moreover Jason was greatly loved by me before, ever since at the mouth of Anaurus in flood, as I was making trial of men’s righteousness, he met me on his return from the chase; and all the mountains and long ridged peaks were sprinkled with snow, and from them the torrents rolling down were rushing with a roar. And he took pity on me in the likeness of an old crone, and raising me on his shoulders himself bore me through the headlong tide. So he is honoured by me unceasingly; nor will Pelias pay the penalty of his outrage, unless thou wilt grant Jason his return.”

Thus she spake, and speechlessness seized Cypris. And beholding Hera supplicating her she felt awe, and then addressed her with friendly words: “Dread goddess, may no viler thing than Cypris ever be found, if I disregard thy eager desire in word or deed, whatever my weak arms can effect; and let there be no favour in return.”

᾽Ως ἔφαθ'· Ἦρη δ' αὖτις ἐπιφραδέως ἀγόρευσεν·
 'Οὐτι βίης χατέουσαι ἰκάνομεν, οὐδέ τι χειρῶν.
 ἀλλ' αὐτως ἀκέουσα τεῶ ἐπικέκλεο παιδί
 παρθένον Αἰήτεω θέλξαι πόθῳ Αἰσονίδαο.
 εἰ γάρ οἱ κείνη συμφράσσεται εὐμενέουσα,
 ῥηιδίως μιν ἐλόντα δέρος χρύσειον οἶω
 νοστήσειν ἐς Ἴωλκόν, ἐπεὶ δολόεσσα τέτυκται.'

᾽Ως ἄρ' ἔφη· Κύπρις δὲ μετ' ἀμφοτέρησιν ἔειπεν· 90
 'Ἦρη, Ἀθηναίη τε, πίθοιτό κεν ὕμμι μάλιστα,
 ἢ ἐμοί. ὑμείων γὰρ ἀναιδὴτῷ περ ἔοντι
 τυτθὴ γ' αἰδῶς ἔσσειτ' ἐν ὄμμασιν· αὐτὰρ ἐμῆο
 οὐκ ὄθεται, μάλα δ' αἰὲν ἐριδμαίνων ἀθερίζει.
 καὶ δὴ οἱ μενέηνα, περισχομένη κακότητι,
 αὐτοῖσιν τόξοισι δυσηχέας ἄξαι οἰστοὺς
 ἀμφαδίην. τοῖον γὰρ ἐπηπείλησε χαλεφθείς,
 εἰ μὴ τηλόθι χεῖρας, ἕως ἔτι θυμὸν ἐρύκει,
 ἔξω ἐμάς, μετέπειτά γ' ἀτεμβοίμην ἐοῖ αὐτῇ.'

᾽Ως φάτο· μείδησαν δὲ θεαί, καὶ ἐσέδρακον ἄντην 100
 ἀλλήλαις. ἡ δ' αὖτις ἀκηχεμένη προσέειπεν·
 'Ἄλλοις ἄλγεα τὰμὰ γέλως πέλει· οὐδέ τί με χρὴ
 μυθεῖσθαι πάντεσσιν· ἄλις εἰδυῖα καὶ αὐτή.
 νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ ὕμμι φίλον τόδε δὴ πέλει ἀμφοτέρησιν,
 πειρήσω, καὶ μιν μειλίξομαι, οὐδ' ἀπιθήσει.'

᾽Ως φάτο· τὴν δ' Ἦρη ῥαδινῆς ἐπεμάσσατο
 χεῖρός,
 ἦκα δὲ μειδιόωσα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·
 'Οὕτω νῦν, Κυθήρεια, τόδε χρέος, ὥς ἀγορεύεις,
 ἔρξον ἄφαρ· καὶ μὴ τι χαλέπτεο, μηδ' ἐρίδαινε
 χωρόμενη σῶ παιδί· μεταλλήξει γὰρ ὀπίσσω.'

Ἦ ῥα, καὶ ἔλλιπε θῶκον· ἐφωμάρτησε δ' Ἀθήνη·
 ἐκ δ' ἴσαν ἄμφω ταίγε παλίσσυτοι. ἡ δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
 βῆ ῥ' ἵμεν Οὐλύμποιο κατὰ πτύχας, εἴ μιν ἐφεύροι.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

She spake, and Hera again addressed her with prudence: "It is not in need of might or of strength that we have come. But just quietly bid thy boy charm Aetes' daughter with love for Jason. For if she will aid him with her kindly counsel, easily do I think he will win the fleece of gold and return to Iolcus, for she is full of wiles."

Thus she spake, and Cypris addressed them both: "Hera and Athena, he will obey you rather than me. For unabashed though he is, there will be some slight shame in his eyes before you; but he has no respect for me, but ever slights me in contentious mood. And, overborne by his naughtiness, I purpose to break his ill-sounding arrows and his bow in his very sight. For in his anger he has threatened that if I shall not keep my hands off him while he still masters his temper, I shall have cause to blame myself thereafter."

So she spake, and the goddesses smiled and looked at each other. But Cypris again spoke, vexed at heart: "To others my sorrows are a jest; nor ought I to tell them to all; I know them too well myself. But now, since this pleases you both, I will make the attempt and coax him, and he will not say me nay."

Thus she spake, and Hera took her slender hand and gently smiling, replied: "Perform this task, Cytherea, straightway, as thou sayest; and be not angry or contend with thy boy; he will cease hereafter to vex thee."

She spake, and left her seat, and Athena accompanied her and they went forth both hastening back. And Cypris went on her way through the glens of Olympus to find her boy. And she found him apart,

εὔρε δὲ τόνγ' ἀπάνευθε Διὸς θαλερῇ ἐν ἁλῶν,
 οὐκ οἶον, μετὰ καὶ Γανυμήδεα, τόν ῥά ποτε Ζεὺς
 οὐρανῷ ἐγκατένασσε· ἐφέστιον ἀθανάτοισιν,
 κάλλεος ἱμερθεῖς. ἀμφ' ἀστραγάλοισι δὲ τῶγε
 χρυσείοις, ἅτε κοῦροι ὁμήθεες, ἐψιύωντο.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἤδη πάμπαν ἐνίπλεον ᾧ ὑπὸ μαζῶ
 μάργος Ἑρως λαϊῆς ὑποῖσχανε χειρὸς ἀγοστόν, 120
 ὀρθὸς ἐφেষτηώς· γλυκερὸν δέ οἱ ἀμφὶ παρειὰς
 χροίῃ θάλλεν ἔρευθος. ὁ δ' ἐγγύθεν ὀκλαδὸν ἦστο
 σίγα κατηφιόων· δοιῶ δ' ἔχεν, ἄλλον ἔτ' αὐτῶς
 ἄλλῳ ἐπιπροϊείς, κεχόλωτο δὲ καγχαλόωντι.
 καὶ μὴν τούσγε παρᾶσσον ἐπὶ προτέροισιν ὀλέσσας
 βῆ κεναῖς σὺν χερσὶν ἀμήχανος, οὐδ' ἐνόησεν
 Κύπριν ἐπιπλομένην. ἥ δ' ἀντίη ἴστατο παῖδός,
 καὶ μιν ἄφαρ γναθμοῖο κατασχομένη προσέειπεν·
 'Τίπτ' ἐπιμειδιάς, ἄφατον κακόν; ἦέ μιν αὐτῶς
 ἦπαφες, οὐδὲ δίκη περιέπλεο νῆιν ἐόντα; 130
 εἰ δ' ἄγε μοι πρόφρων τέλεσον χρέος, ὅττι κεν
 εἴπω·

καὶ κέν τοι ὀπάσαιμι Διὸς περικαλλὲς ἄθυρμα
 κείνο, τό οἱ ποίησε φίλη τροφὸς Ἀδρήστεια
 ἄντρῳ ἐν Ἰδαίῳ ἔτι νήπια κουρίζοντι,
 σφαῖραν ἐντρόχαλον, τῆς οὐ σύγῃ μείλιον ἄλλο
 χειρῶν Ἠφαίστοιο κατακτεατίσση ἄρειον.
 χρύσεια μὲν οἱ κύκλα τετεύχεται· ἀμφὶ δ' ἐκάστω
 διπλόαι ἀψίδες περιηγέες εἰλίσσονται·
 κρυπταὶ δὲ ῥαφαί· εἰσιν· ἔλιξ δ' ἐπιδέδρομε πᾶσαις
 κυανέῃ. ἀτὰρ εἴ μιν ἑαῖς ἐνὶ χερσὶ βάλοιο, 140
 ἀστὴρ ὥς, φλεγέθοντα δι' ἡέρος ὀλκὸν ἴησιν.
 τήν τοι ἐγὼν ὀπάσω· σὺ δὲ παρθένον Λιήταο
 θέλξον οἰστεύσας ἐπ' Ἰήσωνι· μηδέ τις ἔστω
 ἀμβολίη. δὴ γάρ κεν ἀφαιροτέρη χάρις εἴη·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

in the blooming orchard of Zeus, not alone, but with him Ganymedes, whom once Zeus had set to dwell among the immortal gods, being enamoured of his beauty. And they were playing for golden dice, as like-minded boys are wont to do. And already greedy Eros was holding the palm of his left hand quite full of them under his breast, standing upright; and on the bloom of his cheeks a sweet blush was glowing. But the other sat crouching hard by, silent and downcast, and he had two dice left which he threw one after the other, and was angered by the loud laughter of Eros. And lo, losing them straightway with the former, he went off empty-handed, helpless, and noticed not the approach of Cypris. And she stood before her boy, and laying her hand on his lips, addressed him:

“Why dost thou smile in triumph, unutterable rogue? Hast thou cheated him thus, and unjustly overcome the innocent child? Come, be ready to perform for me the task I will tell thee of, and I will give thee Zeus’ all-beauteous plaything—the one which his dear nurse Adrasteia made for him, while he still lived a child, with childish ways, in the Idaean cave—a well-rounded ball; no better toy wilt thou get from the hands of Hephaestus. All of gold are its zones, and round each double seams run in a circle; but the stitches are hidden, and a dark blue spiral overlays them all. But if thou shouldst cast it with thy hands, lo, like a star, it sends a flaming track through the sky. This I will give thee; and do thou strike with thy shaft and charm the daughter of Aetes with love for Jason; and let there be no loitering. For then my thanks would be the slighter.”

᾽Ως φάτο· τῷ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἔπος γένετ' εἰσαίοντι.
 μείλια δ' ἔκβαλε πάντα, καὶ ἀμφοτέρησι χιτῶνος
 νωλεμές ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα θεᾶς ἔχεν ἀμφιμεμαρπώς.
 λίσσετο δ' αἶψα πορεῖν αὐτοσχεδόν· ἥ δ' ἀγανοῖσιν
 ἀντομένη μύθοισιν, ἐπειρύσσασα παρειάς,
 κύσσε ποτισχομένη, καὶ ἀμείβετο μειδιόωσα.

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Ἴστω νῦν τόδε σεῖο φίλον κάρη ἡδ' ἐμὸν αὐτῆς,
 ἥ μὲν τοι δῶρόν γε παρέξομαι, οὐδ' ἀπατήσω,
 εἴ κεν ἐνισκίμψης κούρη βέλος Αἰήταο.

Φῆ· ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἀστραγάλους συναμήσατο, καὶ δὲ
 φαεινῷ

μητρὸς ἐῆς εὖ πάντας ἀριθμήσας βάλε κόλπῳ.
 αὐτίκα δ' ἰοδόκην χρυσήν περικάτθετο μίτρῃ
 πρέμνῳ κεκλιμένην· ἀνὰ δ' ἀγκύλον εἴλετο τόξον.
 βῆ δὲ διέκ μεγάροιο Διὸς πάγκαρπον ἀλωήν.
 αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα πύλας ἐξήλυθεν Οὐλύμποιο
 αἰθερίας· ἔνθεν δὲ καταιβάτις ἐστὶ κέλευθος
 οὐρανίη· δοιῶ δὲ πόλοι ἀνέχουσι κάρηνα
 οὐρέων ἡλιβάτων, κορυφαὶ χθονός, ἡχί τ' αἰερθεῖς
 ἡέλιος πρῶτησιν ἐρέυθεται¹ ἀκτίνεσσιν.
 νειόθι δ' ἄλλοτε γαῖα φερέσβιος ἄστεά τ' ἀνδρῶν
 φαίνεται καὶ ποταμῶν ἱεροὶ ῥόοι, ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε
 ἄκριες, ἀμφὶ δὲ πόντος ἀν' αἰθέρα πολλὸν ἰόντι.

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Ἦρωες δ' ἀπάνευθεν ἐῆς ἐπὶ σέλμασι νηὸς
 ἐν ποταμῷ καθ' ἕλος λελοχημένοι ἡγορόωντο.
 αὐτὸς δ' Αἰσοιίδης μετεφώνεεν· οἱ δ' ὑπάκουον
 ἡρέμας ἢ ἐνὶ χώρῃ ἐπισχερῶ ἐδριόωντες·
 ὦ φίλοι, ἦτοι ἐγὼ μὲν ὅ μοι ἐπιανδάνει αὐτῷ
 ἐξερέω· τοῦ δ' ὕμμι τέλος κρηῖναι ἔοικεν.

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¹ ἐρέυθεται G, one Parisian : ἐρεύγεται L : ἐρείδεται Merkel.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Thus she spake, and welcome were her words to the listening boy. And he threw down all his toys, and eagerly seizing her robe on this side and on that, clung to the goddess. And he implored her to bestow the gift at once ; but she, facing him with kindly words, touched his cheeks, kissed him and drew him to her, and replied with a smile :

“ Be witness now thy dear head and mine, that surely I will give thee the gift and deceive thee not, if thou wilt strike with thy shaft Aeetes’ daughter.”

She spoke, and he gathered up his dice, and having well counted them all threw them into his mother’s gleaming lap. And straightway with golden baldric he slung round him his quiver from where it leant against a tree-trunk, and took up his curved bow. And he fared forth through the fruitful orchard of the palace of Zeus. Then he passed through the gates of Olympus high in air ; hence is a downward path from heaven ; and the twin poles rear aloft steep mountain tops—the highest crests of earth, where the risen sun grows ruddy with his first beams. And beneath him there appeared now the life-giving earth and cities of men and sacred streams of rivers, and now in turn mountain peaks and the ocean all around, as he swept through the vast expanse of air.

Now the heroes apart in ambush, in a back-water of the river, were met in council, sitting on the benches of their ship. And Aeson’s son himself was speaking among them ; and they were listening silently in their places sitting row upon row : “ My friends, what pleases myself that will I say out ; it is for you to bring about its fulfilment. For in

ξυνὴ γὰρ χρειώ, ξυνοὶ δέ τε μῦθοι ἔασιν
 πᾶσιν ὁμῶς· ὁ δὲ σίγα νόον βουλήν τ' ἀπερύκων
 ἴστω καὶ νόστου τόνδε στόλον οἷος ἀπούρας.
 ὦλλοι μὲν κατὰ νῆα σὺν ἔντεσι μίμνεθ' ἔκηλοι·
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ἐς δώματ' ἐλεύσομαι Αἰήταο,
 υἱας ἐλὼν Φρίξιοιο δῦω δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἐταίρους.
 πειρήσω δ' ἐπέεσσι παροίτερον ἀντιβολήσας,
 εἴ κ' ἐθέλοι φιλότῃτι δέρος χρύσειον ὀπάσσαι,
 ἦε καὶ οὐ, πίσυνος δὲ βίῃ μετιόντας ἀτίσσει.
 ὦδε γὰρ ἐξ αὐτοῖο πάρος κακότητα διαέντες
 φρασσόμεθ' εἴτ' ἄρῃι συνομισόμεθ', εἴτε τις ἄλλη
 μῆτις ἐπίρροθος ἔσται ἐργομένοισιν αὐτῆς.
 μῆδ' αὐτως ἀλκῇ, πρὶν ἔπεσσί γε πειρηθῆναι,
 τόνδ' ἀπαμείρωμεν σφέτερον κτέρας. ἀλλὰ πάρ-
 οιθεν

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λωίτερον μύθῳ μιν ἀρέσσασθαι μετιόντας.
 πολλάκι τοι ῥέα μῦθος, ὃ κεν μόλις ἐξανύσειεν
 ἡγορέῃ, τόδ' ἔρεξε κατὰ χρέος, ἥπερ ἐφκει
 πρηϋνας. ὁ δὲ καί ποτ' ἀμύμονα Φρίξον ἔδεκτο
 μητρυῖης φεύγοντα δόλον πατρός τε θυηλάς.
 πάντες ἐπεὶ πάντῃ καὶ ὅτις μάλα κύντατος ἀνδρῶν,
 Ξεινίου αἰδεῖται Ζηνὸς θέμιν ἠδ' ἀλεγίζει.

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ὦς φάτ'· ἐπήνησαν δὲ νέοι ἔπος Αἰσοιίδαο
 πασσυδίῃ, οὐδ' ἔσκε παρὲξ ὅτις ἄλλο κελεύει.
 καὶ τότε ἄρ' υἱῆας Φρίξου Τελαμῶνά θ' ἔπεσθαι
 ὦρσε καὶ Αὐγείην· αὐτὸς δ' ἔλεν Ἑρμείαο
 σκῆπτρον· ἄφαρ δ' ἄρα νηὸς ὑπὲρ δόνακός τε καὶ
 ὕδωρ

χέρσονδ' ἐξαπέβησαν ἐπὶ θρωσμοῦ πεδίοιο.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

common is our task, and common to all alike is the right of speech ; and he who in silence withholds his thought and his counsel, let him know that it is he alone that bereaves this band of its home-return. Do ye others rest here in the ship quietly with your arms ; but I will go to the palace of Aeetes, taking with me the sons of Phrixus and two comrades as well. And when I meet him I will first make trial with words to see if he will be willing to give up the golden fleece for friendship's sake or not, but trusting to his might will set at nought our quest. For so, learning his frowardness first from himself, we will consider whether we shall meet him in battle, or some other plan shall avail us, if we refrain from the war-cry. And let us not merely by force, before putting words to the test, deprive him of his own possession. But first it is better to go to him and win his favour by speech. Oftentimes, I ween, does speech accomplish at need what prowess could hardly carry through, smoothing the path in manner befitting. And he once welcomed noble Phrixus, a fugitive from his stepmother's wiles and the sacrifice prepared by his father. For all men everywhere, even the most shameless, reverence the ordinance of Zeus, god of strangers, and regard it."

Thus he spake, and the youths approved the words of Aeson's son with one accord, nor was there one to counsel otherwise. And then he summoned to go with him the sons of Phrixus, and Telamon and Augeias ; and himself took Hermes' wand ; and at once they passed forth from the ship beyond the reeds and the water to dry land, towards the rising ground of the plain. The plain, I wis, is called

Κιρκαῖον τόδε που κικλήσκεται· ἔνθα δὲ πολλαὶ
 ἐξείης πρόμαλοί τε καὶ ἰτέαι ἐκπεφύασιν,
 τῶν καὶ ἐπ' ἄκροτάτων νέκυες σειρήσι κρέμανται
 δέσμιοι. εἰσέτι νῦν γὰρ ἄγος Κόλχοισιν ὄρωρεν
 ἀνέρας οἰχομένους πυρὶ καίεμεν· οὐδ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ
 ἔστι θέμις στείλαντας ὑπερθ' ἐπὶ σῆμα χέεσθαι,
 ἀλλ' ἐν ἀδεψήτοισι κατειλύσαντε βοεῖαις
 δεινδρέων ἐξάπτειν ἐκὰς ἄστεος. ἡέρι δ' ἴσην
 καὶ χθὼν ἔμμορεν αἶσαν, ἐπεὶ χθονὶ ταρχύουσιν
 θηλυτέρας· ἡ γάρ τε δίκη θεσμοῖο τέτυκται.

Τοῖσι δὲ νισσόμενοις Ἥρη φίλα μητιώσα
 ἡέρα πουλὺν ἐφῆκε δι' ἄστεος, ὄφρα λάθοιεν
 Κόλχων μυρίον ἔθνος ἐς Αἰήταο κίοντες.
 ὦκα δ' ὅτ' ἐκ πεδίοιο πόλιν καὶ δῶμαθ' ἴκοντο
 Αἰήτεω, τότε δ' αὖτις ἀπεσκέδασεν νέφος Ἥρη.
 ἔσταν δ' ἐν προμολῇσι τεθηπότες ἔρκε' ἀνακτος
 εὐρείας τε πύλας καὶ κίονας, οἱ περὶ τοίχους
 ἐξείης ἀνεχον· θριγκὸς δ' ἐφύπερθε δόμοιο
 λαΐνεος χαλκῆσιν ἐπὶ γλυφίδεσσιν ἀρήρει.
 εὐκηλοὶ δ' ὑπὲρ οὐδὸν ἔπειτ' ἔβαν. ἄγχι δὲ τοῖο
 ἡμερίδες χλοεροῖσι καταστεφέες πετάλοισιν
 ὑψοῦ ἀειρόμεναι μέγ' ἐθήλεον. αἱ δ' ὑπὸ τῇσιν
 ἀέναοι κρῆναι πίσυρες ῥέον, ἃς ἐλάχηνεν
 Ἥφαιστος. καὶ ῥ' ἡ μὲν ἀναβλύεσκε γάλακτι,
 ἡ δ' οἶνω, τριτάτῃ δὲ θυώδεϊ νᾶεν ἀλοιφῇ·
 ἡ δ' ἄρ' ὕδωρ προρέεσκε, τὸ μὲν ποθι δυομένησιν
 θέρμετο Πληιάδεσσιν, ἀμοιβηδὶς δ' ἀνιούσαις
 κρυστάλλῳ ἴκελον κοίλης ἀνεκήκιε πέτρης.
 τοῖ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ μεγάροισι Κυταιέος Αἰήταο
 τεχνῆεις Ἥφαιστος ἐμήσατο θέσκελα ἔργα.
 καὶ οἱ χαλκόποδας ταύρους κάμε, χάλκεα δέ σφρων

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Circe's; and here in line grow many willows and osiers, on whose topmost branches hang corpses bound with cords. For even now it is an abomination with the Colchians to burn dead men with fire; nor is it lawful to place them in the earth and raise a mound above, but to wrap them in untanned oxhides and suspend them from trees far from the city. And so earth has an equal portion with air, seeing that they bury the women; for that is the custom of their land.

And as they went Hera with friendly thought spread a thick mist through the city, that they might fare to the palace of Aetes unseen by the countless hosts of the Colchians. But soon when from the plain they came to the city and Aetes' palace, then again Hera dispersed the mist. And they stood at the entrance, marvelling at the king's courts and the wide gates and columns which rose in ordered lines round the walls; and high up on the palace a coping of stone rested on brazen triglyphs. And silently they crossed the threshold. And close by garden vines covered with green foliage were in full bloom, lifted high in air. And beneath them ran four fountains, ever-flowing, which Hephaestus had delved out. One was gushing with milk, one with wine, while the third flowed with fragrant oil; and the fourth ran with water, which grew warm at the setting of the Pleiads, and in turn at their rising bubbled forth from the hollow rock, cold as ice. Such then were the wondrous works that the craftsman-god Hephaestus had fashioned in the palace of Cytaean Aetes. And he wrought for him bulls with feet of bronze, and their mouths were of bronze, and from them they breathed

ἦν στόματ', ἐκ δὲ πυρὸς δεινὸν σέλας ἀμπνείεσκον·
 πρὸς δὲ καὶ αὐτόγυνον στιβαροῦ ἀδάμαντος ἄροτρον
 ἤλασεν, Ἡελίῳ τίνων χάριν, ὅς ῥά μιν ἵπποις
 δέξατο, Φλεγραίῃ κεκμηότα δηιοτήτι.
 ἔνθα δὲ καὶ μέσσαυλος ἐλήλατο· τῇ δ' ἐπὶ πολλαὶ
 δικλίδες εὐπηγεῖς θάλαμοί τ' ἔσαν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα.
 δαιδαλέῃ δ' αἶθουσα παρέξ ἐκάτερθε τέτυκτο.
 λέχρις δ' αἰπύτεροι δόμοι ἔστασαν ἀμφοτέρωθεν.
 τῶν ἦτοι ἄλλῳ μὲν, ὅτις καὶ ὑπείροχος ἦεν,
 κρείων Αἰήτης σὺν ἐῇ ναίεσκε δάμαρτι·
 ἄλλῳ δ' Ἀψυρτος ναίεν πάις Αἰήταο,
 τὸν μὲν Καυκασίῃ νύμφη τέκεν Ἀστερόδεια
 πρὶν περ κουριδίην θέσθαι Εἰδυῖαν ἄκοιτιν,
 Ἐηθύος Ὠκεανοῦ τε πανοπλοτάτην γεγαυῖαν.
 καὶ μιν Κόλχων νῆες ἐπωνυμίην Φαέθοντα
 ἔκλεον, οὐνεκα πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν ἡιθέοισιν.
 τοὺς δ' ἔχον ἀμφίπολοί τε καὶ Αἰήταο θύγατρες
 ἄμφω, Χαλκιοῖα Μήδειά τε. τὴν μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε¹
 ἐκ θαλάμου θαλαμόνδε κασιγνήτην μετιοῦσαν—
 "Ἦρῃ γάρ μιν ἔρυκε δόμῳ· πρὶν δ' οὔτι θάμιζεν
 ἐν μεγάροις, Ἐκάτης δὲ πανήμερος ἀμφεπονείτο
 νηόν, ἐπεὶ ῥα θεᾶς αὐτὴ πέλεν ἀρήτειρα—
 καὶ σφεας ὥς ἶδεν ἄσσον, ἀνίαχεν· ὁξὺ δ' ἄκουσεν
 Χαλκιοῖα· δμῳαὶ δὲ ποδῶν προπάροιθε βαλοῦσαι
 νήματα καὶ κλωστήρας ἀολλέες ἔκτοθι πᾶσαι
 ἔδραμον. ἡ δ' ἅμα τοῖσιν εὐρὺς νῆας ἰδοῦσα
 ὑψοῦ χάρματι χεῖρας ἀνέσχεθεν· ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 μητέρα δεξιόωντο, καὶ ἀμφαγάπαζον ἰδόντες
 γηθόσυνοι· τοίων δὲ κινυρομένη φάτο μῦθον·

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¹ τὴν μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε . . . μετιοῦσαν two Vatican, L² by correction: τῇ μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε . . . μετιοῦσαν LG: ἡ μὲν ἄρ' ἤει . . . μετιοῦσα some Parisian.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

out a terrible flame of fire ; moreover he forged a plough of unbending adamant, all in one piece, in payment of thanks to Helios, who had taken the god up in his chariot when faint from the Phlegræan fight.¹ And here an inner-court was built, and round it were many well-fitted doors and chambers here and there, and all along on each side was a richly-wrought gallery. And on both sides loftier buildings stood obliquely. In one, which was the loftiest, lordly Aëtes dwelt with his queen ; and in another dwelt Apsyrus, son of Aëtes, whom a Caucasian nymph, Asterodeia, bare before he made Eidyia his wedded wife, the youngest daughter of Tethys and Oceanus. And the sons of the Colchians called him by the new name of Phaëthon,² because he outshone all the youths. The other buildings the handmaidens had, and the two daughters of Aëtes, Chalciopé and Médæa. Médæa then [they found] going from chamber to chamber in search of her sister, for Héræ detained her within that day ; but beforetime she was not wont to haunt the palace, but all day long was busied in Hécate's temple, since she herself was the priestess of the goddess. And when she saw them she cried aloud, and quickly Chalciopé caught the sound ; and her maids, throwing down at their feet their yarn and their thread, rushed forth all in a throng. And she, beholding her sons among them, raised her hands aloft through joy ; and so they likewise greeted their mother, and when they saw her embraced her in their gladness ; and she with many sobs spoke thus :

¹ *i.e.* the fight between the gods and the giants.

² *i.e.* the Shining One.

‘Εμψης οὐκ ἄρ’ ἐμέλλετ’ ἀκηδεῖν με λιπόντες 26
 τηλόθι πλάγξασθαι· μετὰ δ’ ὑμέας ἔτραπεν αἶσα.
 δειλὴ ἐγὼ, οἶον πόθον Ἑλλάδος ἔκποθεν ἄτης
 λευγαλέης Φρίξοιο ἐφημοσύνησιν ἔλεσθε
 πατρός· ὁ μὲν θνήσκων στυγεράς ἐπετείλατ’ ἡνίας
 ἡμετέρῃ κραδίῃ. τί δέ κεν πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο,
 ὅστις ὄδ’ Ὀρχομενός, κτεάνων Ἀθάμαντος ἔκητι
 μητέρ’ ἐὼν ἀχέουσαν ἀποπρολιπόντες, ἴκοισθε;’

Ὡς ἔφατ’· Αἰήτης δὲ πανύστατος ὦρτο θύραζε,
 ἐκ δ’ αὐτῇ Εἰδυῖα δάμαρ κίεν Αἰήταο, 27
 Χαλκιόπης αἶουσα· τὸ δ’ αὐτίκα πᾶν ὁμάδοιο
 ἔρκος ἐπεπλήθει. τοῖ μὲν μέγαν ἀμφιπένοντο
 ταῦρον ἄλις δμῶες· τοῖ δὲ ξύλα κάγκανα χαλκῷ
 κόπτον· τοῖ δὲ λοετρὰ πυρὶ ζέον· οὐδέ τις ἦεν,
 ὃς καμάτου μεθίσκεν, ὑποδρήσων βασιλῆι.

Τόφρα δ’ Ἔρως πολιοῖο δι’ ἡέρος ἵξεν ἄφαντος,
 τετρηχώς, οἶόν τε νέαις ἐπὶ φορβάσιν οἴστρος
 τέλλεται, ὅντε μύωπα βοῶν κλείουσι νομῆες.
 ὦκα δ’ ὑπὸ φλὴν προδόμῳ ἔνι τόξα τανύσσας
 ἰοδόκης ἀβλήτα πολύστονον ἐξέλετ’ ἰόν.

ἐκ δ’ ὄγε καρπαλίμοισι λαθὼν ποσὶν οὐδὸν ἄμειψεν 28
 ὀξέα δενδίλλων· αὐτῷ θ’ ὑπὸ βαιὸς ἐλυσθεὶς
 Αἰσονίδῃ γλυφίδας μέσση ἐνικάτθετο νευρῇ,
 ἰθὺς δ’ ἀμφοτέρῃσι διασχόμενος παλάμησιν
 ἦκ’ ἐπὶ Μηδείῃ· τὴν δ’ ἀμφασίῃ λάβε θυμόν.
 αὐτὸς δ’ ὑψορόφοιο παλιμπετὲς ἐκ μεγάροιο
 καγχαλῶν ἤιξε· βέλος δ’ ἐνεδαίετο κούρη
 νέρθεν ὑπὸ κραδίῃ, φλογὶ εἴκελον· ἀντία δ’ αἰεὶ
 βάλλεν ὑπ’ Αἰσονίδην ἀμαρύγματα, καὶ οἱ ἄηντο

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

“After all then, ye were not destined to leave me in your heedlessness and to wander far; but fate has turned you back. Poor wretch that I am! What a yearning for Hellas from some woeful madness seized you at the behest of your father Phrixus. Bitter sorrows for my heart did he ordain when dying. And why should ye go to the city of Orchomenus, whoever this Orchomenus is, for the sake of Athamas’ wealth, leaving your mother alone to bear her grief?”

Such were her words; and Aeetes came forth last of all and Eidyia herself came, the queen of Aeetes, on hearing the voice of Chalciopé; and straightway all the court was filled with a throng. Some of the thralls were busied with a mighty bull, others with the axe were cleaving dry billets, and others heating with fire water for the baths; nor was there one who relaxed his toil, serving the king

Meantime Eros passed unseen through the grey mist, causing confusion, as when against grazing heifers rises the gadfly, which oxherds call the breese. And quickly beneath the lintel in the porch he strung his bow and took from the quiver an arrow unshot before, messenger of pain. And with swift feet unmarked he passed the threshold and keenly glanced around; and gliding close by Aeson’s son he laid the arrow-notch on the cord in the centre, and drawing wide apart with both hands he shot at Medea; and speechless amazement seized her soul. But the god himself flashed back again from the high-roofed hall, laughing loud; and the bolt burnt deep down in the maiden’s heart, like a flame; and ever she kept darting bright glances straight up at Aeson’s son, and within her breast her

στηθέων ἐκ πυκιναὶ καμάτῳ φρένες, οὐδέ τιν' ἄλλην
 μνήστιν ἔχεν, γλυκερῇ δὲ κατείβετο θυμὸν ἀνίη. 290
 ὥς δὲ γυνὴ μαλερῷ περὶ κάρφεια χεύατο δαλῷ
 χερνῆτις, τῇπερ ταλασῆια ἔργα μέμηλεν,
 ὥς κεν ὑπωρόφιον νύκτωρ σέλας ἐντύναιτο,
 ἄγχι μάλ' ἐγρόμενη· τὸ δ' ἀθέσφατον ἐξ ὀλίγοιο
 δαλοῦ ἀνεγρόμενον σὺν κάρφεια πάντ' ἀμαθύνει·
 τοῖος ὑπὸ κραδίῃ εἰλυμένος αἶθετο λάθρη
 οὐλος Ἔρως· ἀπαλὰς δὲ μετετρωπᾶτο παρειὰς
 ἐς χλόον, ἄλλοτ' ἔρευθος, ἀκηδείησι νόοιο.

Δμῶες δ' ὁππότε δὴ σφιν ἐπαρτέα θῆκαν ἐδωδήν,
 αὐτοὶ τε λιανοῖσιν ἐφαιδρύναντο λοετροῖς, 300
 ἀσπασίως δόρπῳ τε ποτῇτί τε θυμὸν ἄρεσσαν.
 ἐκ δὲ τοῦ Αἰήτης σφετέρης ἐρέεινε θυγατρὸς
 νύμφας τοίοισι παρηγορέων ἐπέεσσιν·

‘ Παιδὸς ἐμῆς κοῦροι Φρίξοιό τε, τὸν περὶ πάντων
 ξείνων ἡμετέροισιν ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔτισα,
 πῶς Αἰάνδε νέεσθε παλίσσυτοι; ἦέ τις ἄτη
 σωομένους μεσσηγὺς ἐνέκλασεν; οὐ μὲν ἐμεῖο
 πείθεσθε προφέροντος ἀπείρονα μέτρα κελεύθου.
 ἦδειν γάρ ποτε πατρὸς ἐν ἄρμασιν Ἡελίοιο
 δινεύσας, ὅτ' ἐμεῖο κασιγνήτην ἐκόμιζεν 310
 Κίρκην ἐσπερίης εἴσω χθονός, ἐκ δ' ἰκόμεσθα
 ἀκτὴν ἠπείρου Τυρσηνίδος, ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
 ραιετᾶει, μάλα πολλὸν ἀπόπροθι Κολχίδος αἴης.
 ἀλλὰ τί μύθων ἦδος; ἃ δ' ἐν ποσὶν ὑμῖν ὄρωρεν,
 εἵπατ' ἀριφραδέως, ἦδ' οἵτινες οἶδ' ἐφέπονται
 ἀνέρες, ὅππῃ τε γλαφυρῆς ἐκ νηὸς ἔβητε.’

Τοιά μιν ἐξερέοντα κασιγνήτων προπάροιθεν
 Ἄργος ὑποδδείσας ἀμφὶ στόλῳ Αἰσονίδαο
 μελιχίως προσέειπεν, ἐπεὶ προγενέστερος ἦεν·

heart panted fast through anguish, all remembrance left her, and her soul melted with the sweet pain. And as a poor woman heaps dry twigs round a blazing brand—a daughter of toil, whose task is the spinning of wool, that she may kindle a blaze at night beneath her roof, when she has waked very early—and the flame waxing wondrous great from the small brand consumes all the twigs together; so, coiling round her heart, burnt secretly Love the destroyer; and the hue of her soft cheeks went and came, now pale, now red, in her soul's distraction.

Now when the thralls had laid a banquet ready before them, and they had refreshed themselves with warm baths, gladly did they please their souls with meat and drink. And thereafter Aetes questioned the sons of his daughter, addressing them with these words:

“Sons of my daughter and of Phrixus, whom beyond all strangers I honoured in my halls, how have ye come returning back to Aea? Did some calamity cut short your escape in the midst? Ye did not listen when I set before you the boundless length of the way. For I marked it once, whirled along in the chariot of my father Helios, when he was bringing my sister Circe to the western land and we came to the shore of the Tyrrhenian mainland, where even now she abides, exceeding far from Colchis. But what pleasure is there in words? Do ye tell me plainly what has been your fortune, and who these men are, your companions, and where from your hollow ship ye came ashore.”

Such were his questions, and Argus, before all his brethren, being fearful for the mission of Aeson's son, gently replied, for he was the elder-born:

'Αἰήτη, κείνην μὲν ἄφαρ διέχευαν ἄελλαι
 320 ζαχρηεῖς· αὐτοὺς δ' ὑπὸ δούρασι πεπτηῶτας
 νήσου Ἐνυαλίῳ ποτὶ ξερὸν ἔκβαλε κύμα
 λυγαίῃ ὑπὸ νυκτί· θεὸς δέ τις ἄμμ' ἐσάωσεν.
 οὐδὲ γὰρ αἶ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐρημαῖην κατὰ νήσον
 ὑπλίζοντ' ὄρνιθες Ἀρήϊαι, οὐδ' ἔτι κείνας
 εὔρομεν. ἀλλ' οἷγ' ἄνδρες ἀπήλασαν, ἔξαποβάντες
 νηὸς ἐῆς προτέρῳ ἐνὶ ἡματι· καὶ σφ' ἀπέρυκεν
 ἡμέας οἰκτείρων Ζηνὸς νόος, ἥε τις αἶσα,
 αὐτίκ' ἐπεὶ καὶ βρώσιν ἄλις καὶ εἶματ' ἔδωκαν,
 οὐνομά τε Φρίξῳ περικλεῆς εἰσαΐοντες
 330 ἦδ' αὐτοῖο σέθεν· μετὰ γὰρ τεὸν ἄστνυ νέονται.
 χρεῖῳ δ' ἦν ἐθέλης ἐξίδμεναι, οὐ σ' ἐπικεύσω.
 τόνδε τις ἰέμενος πάτρης ἀπάνευθεν ἐλάσσαι
 καὶ κτεάνων βασιλεὺς περιώσιον, οὐνεκεν ἀλκῇ
 σφωιτέρῃ πάντεσσι μετέπρεπεν Αἰολίδησιν,
 πέμπει δεῦρο νέεσθαι ἀμήχανον· οὐδ' ὑπαλύξειν
 στεῦται ἀμειλίκτοιο Διὸς θυμαλγέα μῆνιν
 καὶ χόλον, οὐδ' ἄτλητον ἄγος Φρίξοιό τε ποινὰς
 Αἰολιδέων γενεῖν, πρὶν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἰκέσθαι.
 νῆα δ' Ἀθηναίῃ Παλλὰς κάμεν, οὐ μάλα τοίην,
 340 οἰαί περ Κόλχοισι μετ' ἀνδράσι νῆες ἔασιν,
 τάων αἰνοτάτης ἐπεκύρσαμεν. ἤλιθα γάρ μιν
 λάβρον ὕδωρ πνοιή τε διέτμαγεν· ἥ δ' ἐνὶ γόμφοις
 ἴσχεται, ἦν καὶ πᾶσαι ἐπιβρίσωσιν ἄελλαι.
 ἴσον δ' ἐξ ἀνέμοιο θέει καὶ ὅτ' ἀνέρες αὐτοὶ
 νωλεμέως χεῖρεσσιν ἐπισπέρχωσιν ἐρετμοῖς.
 τῇ δ' ἐναγειράμενος Παναχαΐδος εἴ τι φέριστον
 ἡρώων, τεὸν ἄστνυ μετήλυθε, πόλλ' ἐπαληθεῖς
 ἄσ τεα καὶ πελάγη στυγερῆς ἀλός, εἴ οἱ ὀπάσσαις.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

“Aeetes, that ship forthwith stormy blasts tore asunder, and ourselves, crouching on the beams, a wave drove on to the beach of the isle of Enyalios¹ in the murky night; and some god preserved us. For even the birds of Ares that haunted the desert isle beforetime, not even them did we find. But these men had driven them off, having landed from their ship on the day before; and the will of Zeus taking pity on us, or some fate, detained them there, since they straightway gave us both food and clothing in abundance, when they heard the illustrious name of Phrixus and thine own; for to thy city are they faring. And if thou dost wish to know their errand, I will not hide it from thee. A certain king, vehemently longing to drive this man far from his fatherland and possessions, because in might he outshone all the sons of Aeolus, sends him to voyage hither on a bootless venture; and asserts that the stock of Aeolus will not escape the heart-grieving wrath and rage of implacable Zeus, nor the unbearable curse and vengeance due for Phrixus, until the fleece comes back to Hellas. And their ship was fashioned by Pallas Athena, not such a one as are the ships among the Colchians, on the vilest of which we chanced. For the fierce waves and wind broke her utterly to pieces; but the other holds firm with her bolts, even though all the blasts should buffet her. And with equal swiftness she speedeth before the wind and when the crew ply the oar with unresting hands. And he hath gathered in her the mightiest heroes of all Achaea, and hath come to thy city from wandering far through cities and gulfs of the dread ocean, in the hope that

¹ A name of Ares.

αὐτῷ δ' ὥς κεν ἄδη, τῶς ἔσσεται· οὐ γὰρ ἰκάνει 350
 χερσὶ βιησόμενος· μέμονεν δέ τοι ἄξια τίσειν
 δωτίνης, αἶων ἐμέθεν μέγα δυσμενέοντας
 Σαυρομάτας, τοὺς σοῖσιν ὑπὸ σκῆπτροισι δα-
 μάσσει.

εἰ δὲ καὶ οὐνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις γενεήν τε
 ἴδμεναι, οἵτινές εἰσιν, ἕκαστά γε μυθησαίμην.
 τόνδε μὲν, οἷό περ οὔνεκ' ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος ὦλλοι
 ἄγερθεν,

κλείουσ' Αἴσονος υἱὸν Ἰήсона Κρηθείδαο.
 εἰ δ' αὐτοῦ Κρηθῆος ἐτήτυμόν ἐστι γενέθλης,
 οὕτω κεν γνωτὸς πατρώιος ἄμμι πέλοιτο.
 ἄμφω γὰρ Κρηθεὺς Ἀθάμας τ' ἔσαν Αἰόλου υἱές· 360
 Φρίξος δ' αὐτ' Ἀθάμαντος ἦν πάις Αἰολίδαο.
 τόνδε δ' ἄρ', Ἡελίου γόνον ἔμμεναι εἴ τιν' ἀκούεις,
 δέρκεαι Αὐγείην· Τελαμῶν δ' ὄγε, κυδίστοιο
 Αἰακοῦ ἐκγεγαῶς· Ζεὺς δ' Αἰακὸν αὐτὸς ἔτικτεν.
 ὥς δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι πάντες, ὅσοι συνέπονται ἐταῖροι,
 ἀθανάτων υἱές τε καὶ υἱωνοὶ γεγάασιν·

Τοῖα παρέννεπεν Ἄργος· ἀναξ δ' ἐπεχώσατο
 μύθοις

εἰσαῖων· ὑψοῦ δὲ χόλῳ φρένες ἠερέθοντο.
 φῆ δ' ἐπαλαστήσας· μενέαινε δὲ παισὶ μάλιστα
 Χαλκιόπης· τῶν γὰρ σφε μετελθέμεν οὔνεκ' ἐώλπει· 370
 ἐκ δέ οἱ ὄμματ' ἔλαμψεν ὑπ' ὀφρύσιν ἰεμένοιο·

Ὅνκ ἄφαρ ὀφθαλμῶν μοι ἀπόπροθι, λωβη-
 τῆρες,
 νεῖσθ' αὐτοῖσι δόλοισι παλίσσυντοι ἔκτοθι γαίης,
 πρὶν τινα λευγαλέον τε δέρος καὶ Φρίξον ἰδέσθαι·
 αὐτίχ' ὀμαρτήσαντες ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος, οὐκ ἐπὶ κῶας,
 σκῆπτρα δὲ καὶ τιμὴν βασιληίδα δεύρο νέεσθε.
 εἰ δέ κε μὴ προπάροιθεν ἐμῆς ἤψασθε τραπέζης,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

thou wilt grant him the fleece. But as thou dost please, so shall it be, for he cometh not to use force, but is eager to pay thee a recompense for the gift. He has heard from me of thy bitter foes the Sauromatae, and he will subdue them to thy sway. And if thou desirest to know their names and lineage I will tell thee all. This man on whose account the rest were gathered from Hellas, they call Jason, son of Aeson, whom Cretheus begat. And if in truth he is of the stock of Cretheus himself, thus he would be our kinsman on the father's side. For Cretheus and Athamas were both sons of Aeolus; and Phrixus was the son of Athamas, son of Aeolus. And here, if thou hast heard at all of the seed of Helios, thou dost behold Augeias; and this is Telamon sprung from famous Aeacus; and Zeus himself begat Aeacus. And so all the rest, all the comrades that follow him, are the sons or grandsons of the immortals."

Such was the tale of Argus; but the king at his words was filled with rage as he heard; and his heart was lifted high in wrath. And he spake in heavy displeasure; and was angered most of all with the son of Chalciope; for he deemed that on their account the strangers had come; and in his fury his eyes flashed forth beneath his brows:

"Begone from my sight, felons, straightway, ye and your tricks, from the land, ere someone see a fleece and a Phrixus to his sorrow. Banded together with your friends from Hellas, not for the fleece, but to seize my sceptre and royal power have ye come hither. Had ye not first tasted of my table, surely

ἦ τ' ἂν ἀπὸ γλώσσας τε ταμῶν καὶ χεῖρε κεάσας
ἀμφοτέρας, οἷοισιν ἐπιπροέηκα πόδεσσιν,
ὥς κεν ἐρητύοισθε καὶ ὕστερον ὀρμηθῆναι.
οἶα δὲ καὶ μακάρεσσιν ἐπεψεύσασθε θεοῖσιν.

380

Φῆ ῥα χαλεψάμενος· μέγα δὲ φρένες Αἰακίδαο
νειόθεν οἰδαίνεσκον· ἐέλδετο δ' ἔνδοθι θυμὸς
ἀντιβίην ὁλοὸν φάσθαι ἔπος· ἀλλ' ἀπέρυκεν
Αἰσονίδης· πρὸ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἀμείψατο μελιχίοισιν·

‘Αἰήτη, σχέο μοι τῷδε στόλῳ. οὔτι γὰρ αὐτῶς
ἄστν τεδὸν καὶ δώμαθ' ἰκάνομεν, ὥς πον ἔολπας,
οὐδὲ μὲν ἰέμενοι. τίς δ' ἂν τόσον οἶδμα περῆσαι
τλαίῃ ἐκὼν ὀθνεῖον ἐπὶ κτέρας; ἀλλὰ με δαίμων
καὶ κρυερὴ βασιλῆος ἀτασθάλου ὤρσεν ἐφετμή.
δὸς χάριν ἀντομένοισι· σέθεν δ' ἐγὼ Ἑλλάδι πάσῃ
θεσπεσίην οἶσω κληηδόνα· καὶ δέ τοι ἦδη
πρόφρονές εἰμεν ἄρῃι θοὴν ἀποτίσαι ἀμοιβήν,
εἴτ' οὖν Σαυρομάτας γε λιλαίεαι, εἴτε τιν' ἄλλον
δῆμον σφωιτέροισιν ὑπὸ σκήπτροισι δαμάσσαι.’

390

Ἴσκειν ὑποσσαιῶν ἀγανῇ ὀπί· τοῖο δὲ θυμὸς
διχθαδίην πόρφυρεν ἐνὶ στήθεσσι μενοινήν,
ἢ σφεας ὀρμηθεὶς αὐτοσχεδὸν ἐξεναρίζοι,
ἦ ὅγε πειρήσαιο βίης. τό οἱ εἴσατ' ἄρειον
φραζομένῳ· καὶ δὴ μιν ὑποβλήδην προσέειπεν·

400

‘Ξεῖνε, τί κεν τὰ ἕκαστα διηνεκέως ἀγορεύεις;
εἰ γὰρ ἐτήτυμόν ἐστε θεῶν γένος, ἦ καὶ ἄλλως
οὐδὲν ἐμεῖο χέρηες ἐπ' ὀθνείοισιν ἔβητε,
δώσω τοι χρύσειον ἄγειν δέρος, αἶ κ' ἐθέλησθα,
πειρηθεὶς. ἐσθλοῖς γὰρ ἐπ' ἀνδράσιν οὔτι μεγαίρω.
ὥς αὐτοὶ μυθεῖσθε τὸν Ἑλλάδι κοιρανέοντα.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

would I have cut out your tongues and hewn off both hands and sent you forth with your feet alone, so that ye might be stayed from starting hereafter. And what lies have ye uttered against the blessed gods ! ”

Thus he spake in his wrath ; and mightily from its depths swelled the heart of Aeacus’ son, and his soul within longed to speak a deadly word in defiance, but Aeson’s son checked him, for he himself first made gentle answer :

“ Aeetes, bear with this armed band, I pray. For not in the way thou deemest have we come to thy city and palace, no, nor yet with such desires. For who would of his own will dare to cross so wide a sea for the goods of a stranger ? But fate and the ruthless command of a presumptuous king urged me. Grant a favour to thy suppliants, and to all Hellas will I publish a glorious fame of thee ; yea, we are ready now to pay thee a swift recompense in war, whether it be the Sauromatae or some other people that thou art eager to subdue to thy sway.”

He spake, flattering him with gentle utterance ; but the king’s soul brooded a twofold purpose within him, whether he should attack and slay them on the spot or should make trial of their might. And this, as he pondered, seemed the better way, and he addressed Jason in answer :

“ Stranger, why needest thou go through thy tale to the end ? For if ye are in truth of heavenly race, or have come in no wise inferior to me, to win the goods of strangers, I will give thee the fleece to bear away, if thou dost wish, when I have tried thee. For against brave men I bear no grudge, such as ye yourselves tell me of him who bears sway in Hellas.

πείρα δέ τοι μένεός τε καὶ ἀλκῆς ἔσσετ' ἄεθλος,
 τόν ῥ' αὐτὸς περίειμι χεροῖν ὀλοόν περ ἔοντα.
 δοιῶ μοι πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἀμφινέμονται
 ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσιόωιτες· 410
 τοὺς ἐλάω ζεύξας στυφελὴν κατὰ νειὸν Ἄρῃος
 τετράγυον, τὴν αἶψα ταμῶν ἐπὶ τέλος ἀρότρῳ
 οὐ σπόρον ὀλκοῖσιν Δηοῦς ἐνιβάλλομαι ἀκτὴν,
 ἀλλ' ὄφις δεινοῖο μεταλδήσκοντας ὀδόντας
 ἀνδράσι τευχῆσθῃσι δέμας· τοὺς δ' αὖθι δαΐζων
 κείρω ἐμῷ ὑπὸ δουρὶ περισταδὸν ἀντιόωντας.
 ἡέριος ζεύγνυμι βόας, καὶ δείελον ὥρην
 παύομαι ἀμήτιο. σύ δ', εἰ τάδε τοῖα τελέσσεις,
 αὐτῆμαρ τόδε κῶας ἀποίσεις εἰς βασιλῆος·
 πρὶν δέ κεν οὐ δοίην, μηδ' ἔλπεο. δὴ γὰρ ἀεικὲς 420
 ἄνδρ' ἀγαθὸν γεγαῶτα κακωτέρῳ ἀνέρι εἶξαι.

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· ὁ δὲ σίγα ποδῶν πύρος ὄμματα
 πῆξας

ἦστ' αὐτῶς ἀφθογγος, ἀμηχανέων κακότητι.
 βουλὴν δ' ἀμφὶ πολὺν στρώφα χρόνον, οὐδέ πη
 εἶχεν

θαρσαλέως ὑποδέχθαι, ἐπεὶ μέγα φαίνετο ἔργον·
 ὁψὲ δ' ἀμειβόμενος προσελέξατο κερδαλέοισιν·

Ἀιήτη, μάλα τοί με δίκη περιπολλὸν ἔργεις.
 τῷ καὶ ἐγὼ τὸν ἄεθλον ὑπερφιάλόν περ ἔοντα
 τλήσομαι, εἰ καί μοι θανέειν μῶρος. οὐ γὰρ ἔτ'
 ἄλλο

ῥίγιον ἀνθρώποισι κακῆς ἐπικείσεται ἀνάγκης,
 ἢ με καὶ ἐνθάδε νείσθαι ἐπέχραεν ἐκ βασιλῆος. 430

Ὡς φάτ' ἀμηχανὴν βεβωλημένος· αὐτὰρ ὁ τὸν γε
 σμερδαλέοις ἐπέεσσι προσέννεπεν ἰσχυρόντα·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

And the trial of your courage and might shall be a contest which I myself can compass with my hands, deadly though it be. Two bulls with feet of bronze I have that pasture on the plain of Ares, breathing forth flame from their jaws; them do I yoke and drive over the stubborn field of Ares, four plough-gates; and quickly cleaving it with the share up to the headland, I cast into the furrows for seed, not the corn of Demeter, but the teeth of a dread serpent that grow up into the fashion of armed men; them I slay at once, cutting them down beneath my spear as they rise against me on all sides. In the morning do I yoke the oxen, and at eventide I cease from the harvesting. And thou, if thou wilt accomplish such deeds as these, on that very day shalt carry off the fleece to the king's palace; ere that time comes I will not give it, expect it not. For indeed it is unseemly that a brave man should yield to a coward."

Thus he spake; and Jason, fixing his eyes on the ground, sat just as he was, speechless, helpless in his evil plight. For a long time he turned the matter this way and that, and could in no way take on him the task with courage, for a mighty task it seemed; and at last he made reply with crafty words:

"With thy plea of right, Aeetes, thou dost shut me in overmuch. Wherefore also I will dare that contest, monstrous as it is, though it be my doom to die. For nothing will fall upon men more dread than dire necessity, which indeed constrained me to come hither at a king's command."

Thus he spake, smitten by his helpless plight; and the king with grim words addressed him, sore

“Ερχεο νῦν μεθ’ ὄμιλον, ἐπεὶ μέμονάς γε πόνοιο·
εἰ δὲ σύγε ζυγὰ βουσὶν ὑποδδείσαις ἐπαεῖραι,
ἥ καὶ οὐλομένου μεταχάσσεαι ἀμήτιο,
αὐτῷ κεν τὰ ἕκαστα μέλοιτό μοι, ὅφρα καὶ ἄλλος
ἀνὴρ ἐρρίγησιν ἀρείονα φῶτα μετελθεῖν.”

“Ἴσκειν ἀπηλεγέως· ὁ δ’ ἀπὸ θρόνου ὤρνυτ’
Ἰήσων,

Αὐγείης Τελαμών τε παρασχεδόν· εἶπετο δ’ Ἄργος 441
οἶος, ἐπεὶ μεσσηγὺς ἔτ’ αὐτόθι νεῦσε λιπέσθαι
αὐτοκασιγνήτοις· οἱ δ’ ἦσαν¹ ἐκ μεγάριοι.
θεσπέσιον δ’ ἐν πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν Αἴσσονος υἱὸς
κάλλει καὶ χαρίτεσσιν· ἐπ’ αὐτῷ δ’ ὄμματα κούρη
λοξὰ παρὰ λιπαρὴν σχομένη θηεῖτο καλύπτρηι,
κῆρ ἄχει σμύχουσα· νόος δέ οἱ ἡὺτ’ ὄνειρος
ἐρπύζων πεπότῃ μετ’ ἵχνια νισσομένοιο.
καί ῥ’ οἱ μὲν ῥα δόμων ἐξήλυθον ἀσχαλόωντες.
Χαλκιόπη δὲ χόλον πεφυλαγμένη Αἰήταο
καρπαλίμως θάλαμόνδε σὺν υἰάσιν οἷσι βεβήκει. 450
αὐτῶς δ’ αὖ Μιήδεια μετέστιχε· πολλὰ δὲ θυμῷ
ῥομαίν’, ὅσσα τ’ Ἐρωτες ἐποτρύνουσι μέλεσθαι.
προπρὸ δ’ ἄρ’ ὀφθαλμῶν ἔτι οἱ ἰνδάλλετο πάντα,
αὐτός θ’ οἶος ἔην, οἷοισί τε φάρεσιν ἔστο,
οἷά τ’ ἔειψ’, ὥς θ’ ἔζετ’ ἐπὶ θρόνου, ὥς τε θύραζε
ἦεν· οὐδέ τιν’ ἄλλον οἶσσατο πορφύρουσα
ἔμμεναι ἀνέρα τοῖον· ἐν οὔασι δ’ αἰὲν ὀρώρει
αὐδὴ τε μῦθοί τε μελίφρονες, οὓς ἀγόρευσεν.
τάρβει δ’ ἀμφ’ αὐτῷ, μὴ μιν βόες ἥ καὶ αὐτὸς
Αἰήτης φθίσειεν· ὀδύρετο δ’ ἡὺτε πᾶμπαν 460
ἤδη τεθνεῖῶτα, τέρεν δέ οἱ ἀμφὶ παρειὰς
δάκρυον αἰνοτάτῳ ἐλέῳ ῥέε κηδοσύνησιν·
ἦκα δὲ μυρομένη λιγέως ἀνενεῖκατο μῦθον·

¹ ἦσαν Rzach : ἦσαν MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

troubled as he was : “ Go forth now to the gathering, since thou art eager for the toil ; but if thou shouldst fear to lift the yoke upon the oxen or shrink from the deadly harvesting, then all this shall be my care, so that another too may shudder to come to a man that is better than he.”

He spake outright ; and Jason rose from his seat, and Augeias and Telamon at once ; and Argus followed alone, for he signed to his brothers to stay there on the spot meantime ; and so they went forth from the hall. And wonderfully among them all shone the son of Aeson for beauty and grace ; and the maiden looked at him with stealthy glance, holding her bright veil aside, her heart smouldering with pain ; and her soul creeping like a dream flitted in his track as he went. So they passed forth from the palace sorely troubled. And Chalciope, shielding herself from the wrath of Aeetes, had gone quickly to her chamber with her sons. And Medea likewise followed, and much she brooded in her soul all the cares that the Loves awaken. And before her eyes the vision still appeared—himself what like he was, with what vesture he was clad, what things he spake, how he sat on his seat, how he moved forth to the door—and as she pondered she deemed there never was such another man ; and ever in her ears rung his voice and the honey-sweet words which he uttered. And she feared for him, lest the oxen or Aeetes with his own hand should slay him ; and she mourned him as though already slain outright, and in her affliction a round tear through very grievous pity coursed down her cheek ; and gently weeping she lifted up her voice aloud :

‘Τίπτε με δειλαίην τόδ’ ἔχει ἄχος; εἴθ’ ὄγε
πάντων

φθίσεται ἡρώων προφερέστατος, εἴτε χερείων,
ἐρρέτω. ἦ μὲν ὄφελλεν ἀκήριος ἐξαλέασθαι.
ναὶ δὴ τοῦτό γε, πότνα θεὰ Περσηί, πέλοιτο,
οἴκαδε νοστήσεις φυγῶν μόρον· εἰ δέ μιν αἶσα
δμηθῆναι ὑπὸ βουσί, τόδε προπάροιθε δαεῖ
οὔνεκεν οὐ οἱ ἔγωγε κακῇ ἐπαγαίομαι ἄτη.’

470

‘Ἡ μὲν ἄρ’ ὥς ἐόλητο νόον μελεδήμασι κούρη.
οἱ δ’ ἐπεὶ οὖν δῆμου τε καὶ ἄστεος ἐκτὸς ἔβησαν
τὴν ὁδόν, ἦν τὸ πάροιθεν ἀνῆλυθον ἐκ πεδίοιο,
δὴ τότε Ἰήσωνα τοῖσδε προσέννεπεν Ἄργος ἔπεσ-
σιν·

‘Αἰσονίδη, μῆτιν μὲν ὀνόσσεαι, ἦντιν’ ἐνίψω·
πείρης δ’ οὐ μάλ’ ἔοικε μεθιέμεν ἐν κακότητι.
κούρην δὴ τινα πρόσθεν ὑπέκλυες αὐτὸς ἐμῆο
φαρμάσσειν Ἐκάτης Περσηίδος ἐννεσίησιν.
τὴν εἴ κεν πεπίθοιμεν, οἴομαι, οὐκέτι τάρβος
ἔσσετ’ ἀεθλεύοντι δαμήμεναι· ἀλλὰ μάλ’ αἰνῶς
δείδω, μή πως οὐ μοι ὑποσταίῃ τόγε μήτηρ.
ἔμπης δ’ ἐξαυτὶς μετελεύσομαι ἀντιβολήσων,
ξυνὸς ἐπεὶ πάντεσσιν ἐπικρέμαθ’ ἡμιν ὄλεθρος.’

480

Ἰσκεν εὐφρονέων· ὁ δ’ ἀμείβετο τοῖσδ’ ἐπέεσσιν·
‘ὦ πέπον, εἴ νύ τοι αὐτῷ ἐφاندάνει, οὔτι μεγαίρω.
βάσκ’ ἴθι καὶ πυκινόισι τεῖην παρὰ μητέρα μύθοις
ὄρνυθι λισσόμενος· μελέη γε μὲν ἡμιν ὄρωρεν
ἐλπωρή, ὅτε νόστον ἐπετραπόμεσθα γυναιξίν.’
ὥς ἔφατ’· ὦκα δ’ ἔλος μετεκίαθον. αὐτὰρ ἐταῖροι
γηθόσυνοι ἐρέεινον, ὅπως παρεόντας ἴδοντο·
τοῖσιν δ’ Αἰσονίδης τετιμημένος ἔκφατο μῦθον·

490

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

"Why does this grief come upon me, poor wretch? Whether he be the best of heroes now about to perish, or the worst, let him go to his doom. Yet I would that he had escaped unharmed; yea, may this be so, revered goddess, daughter of Perses, may he avoid death and return home; but if it be his lot to be o'ermastered by the oxen, may he first learn this, that I at least do not rejoice in his cruel calamity."

Thus then was the maiden's heart racked by love-cares. But when the others had gone forth from the people and the city, along the path by which at the first they had come from the plain, then Argus addressed Jason with these words:

"Son of Aeson, thou wilt despise the counsel which I will tell thee, but, though in evil plight, it is not fitting to forbear from the trial. Ere now thou hast heard me tell of a maiden that uses sorcery under the guidance of Hecate, Perses' daughter. If we could win her aid there will be no dread, methinks, of thy defeat in the contest; but terribly do I fear that my mother will not take this task upon her. Nevertheless I will go back again to entreat her, for a common destruction overhangs us all."

He spake with goodwill, and Jason answered with these words: "Good friend, if this is good in thy sight, I say not nay. Go and move thy mother, beseeching her aid with prudent words; pitiful indeed is our hope when we have put our return in the keeping of women." So he spake, and quickly they reached the back-water. And their comrades joyfully questioned them, when they saw them close at hand; and to them spoke Aeson's son grieved at heart:

ᾠ φίλοι, Αἰήταο ἀπηνέος ἄμμι φίλον κῆρ
 ἀντικρὺ κεχόλωται, ἕκαστα γὰρ οὐ νύ τι τέκμωρ
 οὔτ' ἐμοί, οὔτε κεν ὕμμι διειρομένοισι πέλοιτο.
 φῆ δὲ δῶυ πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἀμφινέμεσθαι
 ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσιόωντας.
 τετράγνυν δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἐφίετο νεῖδον ἀρόσσαι·
 δώσειν δ' ἐξ ὄφιος γενύων σπόρον, ὅς ῥ' ἀνίησιν
 γηγενέας χαλκείοις σὺν τεύχεσιν· ἥματι δ' αὐτῷ
 χρεῖω τούσγε δαΐξαι. ὃ δὴ νύ οἱ—οὔτι γὰρ ἄλλο 500
 βέλτερον ἢν φράσσασθαι—ἀπηλεγέως ὑπόεσθην·

ᾠς ἄρ' ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ' ἀνήνυτος εἶσατ'
 ἄεθλος,
 δὴν δ' ἄνεω καὶ ἄναυδοι ἐς ἀλλήλους ὁρόωντο,
 ἄτη ἀμηχανίη τε κατηφέες· ὁψὲ δὲ Πηλεὺς
 θαρσαλέως μετὰ πᾶσιν ἀριστήεσσιν εἶπεν·
 “Ὀρη μητιάασθαι ὅ κ' ἔρξομεν. οὐ μὲν ἔολπα
 βουλῆς εἶναι ὄνειαρ, ὅσον τ' ἐπὶ κάρτεϊ χειρῶν.
 εἰ μὲν νυν τύνη ζευῆσαι βόας Αἰήταο,
 ἥρως Αἰσονίδη, φρονέεις, μέμονάς τε πόνοιο,
 ἦ τ' ἂν ὑποσχεσίην πεφυλαγμένος ἐντύναιο· 510
 εἰ δ' οὐ τοι μάλα θυμὸς ἐῆ ἐπὶ πάγχυ πέποιθεν
 ἡγορέη, μήτ' αὐτὸς ἐπείγέο, μήτε τιν' ἄλλον
 τῶνδ' ἀνδρῶν πάπταινε παρήμενος. οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε
 σχήσομ', ἐπεὶ θάνατός γε τὸ κύντατον ἔσσεται
 ἄλγος.”

ᾠς ἔφατ' Αἰακίδης· Τελαμῶνι δὲ θυμὸς ὀρίνθη·
 σπερχόμενος δ' ἀνόρουσε θοῶς· ἐπὶ δὲ τρίτος Ἴδας
 ὦρτο μέγα φρονέων, ἐπὶ δ' υἱέε¹ Τυνδαρέοιο·
 σὺν δὲ καὶ Οἰνεΐδης ἐναρίθμιος αἰζηοῖσιν
 ἀνδράσιν, οὐδέ περ ὅσον ἐπανθιόωντας ἰούλους

¹ υἱέε Köchly : υἱες MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

“My friends, the heart of ruthless Aeetes is utterly filled with wrath against us, for not at all can the goal be reached either by me or by you who question me. He said that two bulls with feet of bronze pasture on the plain of Ares, breathing forth flame from their jaws. And with these he bade me plough the field, four plough-gates; and said that he would give me from a serpent's jaws seed which will raise up earthborn men in armour of bronze; and on the same day I must slay them. This task—for there was nothing better to devise—I took on myself outright.”

Thus he spake; and to all the contest seemed one that none could accomplish, and long, quiet and silent, they looked at one another, bowed down with the calamity and their despair; but at last Peleus spake with courageous words among all the chiefs: “It is time to be counselling what we shall do. Yet there is not so much profit, I trow, in counsel as in the might of our hands. If thou then, hero son of Aeson, art minded to yoke Aeetes' oxen, and art eager for the toil, surely thou wilt keep thy promise and make thyself ready. But if thy soul trusts not her prowess utterly, then neither bestir thyself nor sit still and look round for some one else of these men. For it is not I who will flinch, since the bitterest pain will be but death.”

So spake the son of Aeacus; and Telamon's soul was stirred, and quickly he started up in eagerness; and Idas rose up the third in his pride; and the twin sons of Tyndareus; and with them Oeneus' son who was numbered among strong men, though even the soft down on his cheek showed not yet;

ἀντέλλων· τοίῳ οἱ αἰέρετο κάρτεϊ θυμός.

521

οἱ δ' ἄλλοι εἴξαντες ἀκὴν ἔχον. αὐτίκα δ' Ἄργος
τοῖον ἔπος μετέειπεν ἐελδομένοισιν ἀέθλον·

ᾧ Ω φίλοι, ἦτοι μὲν τόδε λοίσθιον. ἀλλά τιν' οἶω
μητρὸς ἐμῆς ἔσσεσθαι ἐναίσιμον ὕμιν ἀρωγήν.
τῷ καὶ περ μεμαῶτες, ἐρητύοισθ' ἐνὶ νηὶ
τυτθὸν ἔθ', ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν, ἐπεὶ καὶ ἐπισχέμεν
ἐμπης

λώιον, ἧ κακὸν οἶτον ἀφειδήσαντας ἐλέσθαι.

κούρη τις μεγάροισιν ἐνιτρέφετ' Αἰήταο,
τὴν Ἑκάτη περίαλλα θεὰ δάε τεχνήσασθαι
φάρμαχ', ὅσ' ἠπειρός τε φύει καὶ νήχυντον ὕδωρ.
τοῖσι καὶ ἀκαμάτοιο πυρὸς μειλίσσετ' αὐτμή,
καὶ ποταμοὺς ἴστησιν ἄφαρ κελαδεινὰ ῥέοντας,
ἄστρα τε καὶ μῆνης ἱερῆς ἐπέδησε κελεύθους.

530

τῆς μὲν ἀπὸ μεγάροιο κατὰ στίβον ἐνθάδ' ἰόντες
μνησάμεθ', εἴ κε δύναίτο, κασιγνήτη γεγαυῖα,
μήτηρ ἡμετέρη πεπιθεῖν ἐπαρῆξαι ἀέθλω.

εἰ δὲ καὶ αὐτοῖσιν τόδ' ἐφανδάνει, ἧ τ' ἂν ἰκοίμην
ἡματι τῷδ' αὐτῷ πάλιν εἰς δόμον Αἰήταο
πειρήσων· τάχα δ' ἂν σὺν δαίμονι πειρηθείην.

ᾧ Ως φάτο· τοῖσι δὲ σῆμα θεοὶ δόσαν εὐμενέοντες.
τρηρῶν μὲν φεύγουσα βίην κίρκοιο πελειᾶς
ὑπόθεν Αἰσονίδεω πεφοβημένη ἔμπεσε κόλποις·
κίρκος δ' ἀφλάστῳ περικάππεσεν. ὦκα δὲ Μόψος
τοῖον ἔπος μετὰ πᾶσι θεοπροπέων ἀγόρευσεν·

540

ᾧ Ὑμμι, φίλοι, τόδε σῆμα θεῶν ἰότητι τέτυκται·
οὐδέ πη ἄλλως ἐστὶν ὑποκρίνασθαι ἄρειον,
παρθενικὴν δ' ἐπέεσσι μετελθέμεν ἀμφιέποντας
μήτι παντοίῃ. δοκέω δέ μιν οὐκ ἀθερίζειν,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

with such courage was his soul uplifted. But the others gave way to these in silence. And straightway Argus spake these words to those that longed for the contest:

"My friends, this indeed is left us at the last. But I deem that there will come to you some timely aid from my mother. Wherefore, eager though ye be, refrain and abide in your ship a little longer as before, for it is better to forbear than recklessly to choose an evil fate. There is a maiden, nurtured in the halls of Aeetes, whom the goddess Hecate taught to handle magic herbs with exceeding skill—all that the land and flowing waters produce. With them is quenched the blast of unwearied flame, and at once she stays the course of rivers as they rush roaring on, and checks the stars and the paths of the sacred moon. Of her we bethought us as we came hither along the path from the palace, if haply my mother, her own sister, might persuade her to aid us in the venture. And if this is pleasing to you as well, surely on this very day will I return to the palace of Aeetes to make trial; and perchance with some god's help shall I make the trial."

Thus he spake, and the gods in their goodwill gave them a sign. A trembling dove in her flight from a mighty hawk fell from on high, terrified, into the lap of Aeson's son, and the hawk fell impaled on the stern-ornament. And quickly Mopsus with prophetic words spake among them all:

"For you, friends, this sign has been wrought by the will of heaven; in no other way is it possible to interpret its meaning better, than to seek out the maiden and entreat her with manifold skill. And I think she will not reject our prayer, if in truth

εἰ ἐτεὸν Φινεύς γε θεῶ ἐνὶ Κύπριδι νόστον
πέφραδεν ἔσσεσθαι. κείνης δ' ὄγε μέλιχος ὄρνις 550
πότμον ὑπεξήλυξε· κέαρ δέ μοι ὥς ἐνὶ θυμῷ
τόνδε κατ' οἶωνόν προτιόσσεται, ὥς δὲ πέλοιτο.
ἀλλὰ, φίλοι, Κυθέρειαν ἐπικλείοντες ἀμύνειν,
ἤδη νῦν Ἀργοιο παραιφασίησι πίθεσθε.'

Ἴσκεν· ἐπήνησαν δὲ νέοι, Φινῆος ἐφετμὰς
μνησάμενοι· μῦθος δ' Ἀφαρήϊος ἄνθορεν Ἰδας,
δεῖν' ἐπαλαστήσας μεγάλη ὀπί, φώνησέν τε·
ᾠ πόποι, ἧ ῥα γυναιξὶν ὁμόστολοι ἐνθάδ' ἔβημεν,
οἱ Κύπριν καλέουσιν ἐπίρροθον ἄμμι πέλεσθαι,
οὐκέτ' Ἐνυαλίῳ μέγα σθένος; ἐς δὲ πελείας 560
καὶ κίρκους λεύσσοντες ἐρητύεσθε ἀέθλων;
ἔρρετε, μῆδ' ὕμιν πολεμῆια ἔργα μέλοιτο,
παρθениκάς δὲ λιτῆσιν ἀνάλκιδας ἡπεροπεύειν.'

Ὡς ἡὔδα μεμαῶς· πολέες δ' ὁμάδησαν ἐταῖροι
ἦκα μάλ', οὐδ' ἄρα τις οἱ ἐναντίον ἔκφατο μῦθον.
χωόμενος δ' ὄγ' ἔπειτα καθέζετο· τοῖσι δ' Ἰήσων
αὐτίκ' ἐποτρύνων τὸν ἐὸν νόον ὦδ' ἀγόρευεν·
Ἄργος μὲν παρὰ νηός, ἐπεὶ τόδε πᾶσιν ἔαδεν,
στελλέσθω· ἀτὰρ αὐτοὶ ἐπὶ χθονὸς ἐκ ποταμοῖο
ἀμφαδὸν ἤδη πείσματ' ἀνάψομεν. ἧ γὰρ ἔοικεν 570
μηκέτι δὴν κρύπτεσθαι ὑποπτήσσοντας αὐτήν.'

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τὸν μὲν ἄφαρ προΐαλλε γέεσθαι
καρπαλίμως ἐξαῦτις ἀνὰ πτόλιν· οἱ δ' ἐπὶ νηὸς
εὐναίας ἐρύσαντες ἐφετμαῖς Αἰσονίδαο
τυτθὸν ὑπέξ ἔλεος χέρσῳ ἐπέκελσαν ἔρετμοῖς.

Αὐτίκα δ' Αἰήτης ἀγορὴν ποιήσατο Κόλχων
νόσφιν ἐοῖο δόμου, τόθι περ καὶ πρόσθε κάθιζον,
ἀτλήτους Μινύησι δόλους καὶ κήδεα τεύχων.
στεῦτο δ', ἐπεὶ κεν πρῶτα βόες διαδηλήσωνται

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Phineus said that our return should be with the help of the Cyprian goddess. It was her gentle bird that escaped death ; and as my heart within me foresees according to this omen, so may it prove ! But, my friends, let us call on Cytherea to aid us, and now at once obey the counsels of Argus."

He spake, and the warriors approved, remembering the injunctions of Phineus ; but all alone leapt up Aphareian Idas and shouted loudly in terrible wrath : " Shame on us, have we come here fellow-voyagers with women, calling on Cypris for help and not on the mighty strength of Enyalius ? And do ye look to doves and hawks to save yourselves from contests ? Away with you, take thought not for deeds of war, but by supplication to beguile weakling girls."

Such were his eager words ; and of his comrades many murmured low, but none uttered a word of answer back. And he sat down in wrath ; and at once Jason roused them and uttered his own thought : " Let Argus set forth from the ship, since this pleases all ; but we will now move from the river and openly fasten our hawsers to the shore. For surely it is not fitting for us to hide any longer cowering from the battle-cry."

So he spake, and straightway sent Argus to return in haste to the city ; and they drew the anchors on board at the command of Aeson's son, and rowed the ship close to the shore, a little away from the back-water.

But straightway Aeetes held an assembly of the Colchians far aloof from his palace at a spot where they sat in times before, to devise against the Minyae grim treachery and troubles. And he threatened

ἄνδρα τόν, ὃς ῥ' ὑπέδεκτο βαρὺν καμέεσθαι ἄεθλον, 584
 δρυμὸν ἀναρρήξας λασίης καθύπερθε κολώνης
 αὐτανδρον φλέξειν δόρυ νήιον, ὃφρ' ἀλεγεινὴν
 ὕβριν ἀποφλύξωσιν ὑπέρβια μηχανώοντες.
 οὐδὲ γὰρ Αἰολίδην Φρίξον μάλα περ χατέοντα
 δέχθαι ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἐφέστιον, ὃς περὶ πάντων
 ξείνων μελιχίῃ τε θεουδείῃ τ' ἐκέκαστο,
 εἰ μὴ οἱ Ζεὺς αὐτὸς ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἄγγελον ἦκεν
 Ἑρμείαν, ὥς κεν προσκηδέος ἀντιάσειεν·
 μὴ καὶ ληιστῆρας ἐὼν ἐς γαῖαν ἰόντας 590
 ἔσσεσθαι δηναῖον ἀπήμονας, οἷσι μέμηλεν
 ὀθνείοις ἐπὶ χεῖρα ἐὼν κτεάτεσσιν αἰερεῖν,
 κρυπταδίους τε δόλους τεκταινέμεν, ἥδὲ βοτήρων
 αὔλια δυσκελάδοισιν ἐπιδρομήσιν δαΐξαι.
 νόσφι δὲ οἱ αὐτῷ φάτ' ἐοικότα μείλια τίσειν
 νιῆας Φρίξοιο, κακορρέκτησιν ὀπηδούς
 ἀνδράσι νοστήσαντας ὀμιλαδόν, ὃφρα ἐ τιμῆς
 καὶ σκήπτρων ἐλάσειαν ἀκηδέες· ὥς ποτε βάζιν
 λευγαλέην οὐ πατρὸς ἐπέκλυεν Ἡερίοιο,
 χρεῖώ μιν πυκινόν τε δόλον βουλὰς τε γενέθλης
 σφωιτέρης ἄτην τε πολύτροπον ἐξαλέασθαι· 600
 τῷ καὶ ἐελδομένους πέμπειν ἐς Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν
 πατρὸς ἐφημοσύνη, δολιχὴν ὁδόν. οὐδὲ θυγατρῶν
 εἶναί οἱ τυτθὸν γε δέος, μὴ πού τινα μῆτιν
 φράσσωνται στυγερήν, οὐδ' υἱέος Ἀψύρτοιο·
 ἀλλ' ἐνὶ Χαλκιόπης γενεῇ τάδε λυγρὰ τετύχθαι.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἄσχετα ἔργα πιφαύσκετο δημοτέροισιν
 χωόμενος· μέγα δέ σφιν ἀπείλεε νῆά τ' ἐρύσθαι
 ἥδ' αὐτούς, ἵνα μήτις ὑπὲκ κακότητος ἀλύξῃ.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

that when first the oxen should have torn in pieces the man who had taken upon him to perform the heavy task, he would hew down the oak grove above the wooded hill, and burn the ship and her crew, that so they might vent forth in ruin their grievous insolence, for all their haughty schemes. For never would he have welcomed the Aeolid Phrixus as a guest in his halls, in spite of his sore need, Phrixus, who surpassed all strangers in gentleness and fear of the gods, had not Zeus himself sent Hermes his messenger down from heaven, so that he might meet with a friendly host; much less would pirates coming to his land be let go scatheless for long, men whose care it was to lift their hands and seize the goods of others, and to weave secret webs of guile, and harry the steadings of herdsmen with ill-sounding forays. And he said that besides all that the sons of Phrixus should pay a fitting penalty to himself for returning in consort with evil-doers, that they might recklessly drive him from his honour and his throne; for once he had heard a baleful prophecy from his father Helios, that he must avoid the secret treachery and schemes of his own offspring and their crafty mischief. Wherefore he was sending them, as they desired, to the Achaean land at the bidding of their father—a long journey. Nor had he ever so slight a fear of his daughters, that they would form some hateful scheme, nor of his son Apsyrtus; but this curse was being fulfilled in the children of Chalciope. And he proclaimed terrible things in his rage against the strangers, and loudly threatened to keep watch over the ship and its crew, so that no one might escape calamity.

Τόφρα δὲ μητέρ' ἔην, μετιὼν δόμον Αἰήταο,
 "Αργος παντοίοισι παρηγορέεσκ' ἐπέεσσιν,
 Μήδειαν λίσσεσθαι ἀμυνέμεν· ἡ δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
 πρόσθεν μητιάασκε· δέος δέ μιν ἴσχανε θυμόν,
 μή πως ἡὲ παρ' αἶσαν ἐτώσια μειλίζαιτο
 πατρὸς ἀτυζομένην ὀλοὸν χόλον, ἡὲ λιτῇσιν
 ἐσπομένης ἀρίδηλα καὶ ἀμφαδὰ ἔργα πέλοιτο.

610

Κούρην δ' ἐξ ἀχέων ἀδινὸς κατελώφεεν ὕπνος
 λέκτρῳ ἀνακλινθεῖσαν. ἄφαρ δέ μιν ἡπεροπῆες,
 οἷά τ' ἀκηχεμένην, ὀλοοὶ ἐρέθεςκον ὄνειροι.
 τὸν ξεῖνον δ' ἐδόκησεν ὑφeskάμεναι τὸν ἄεθλον,
 οὔτι μάλ' ὀρμαίνοντα δέρος κριοῖο κομίσσαι,
 οὔδέ τι τοῖο ἔκητι μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο
 ἐλθέμεν, ὅφρα δέ μιν σφέτερον δόμον εἰσαγάγοιτο
 κουριδίην παράκοιτιν· οἶετο δ' ἀμφὶ βόεσσιν
 αὐτὴ ἀεθλεύουσα μάλ' εὐμαρέως πονέεσθαι·
 σφωιτέρους δὲ τοκῆας ὑποσχεσίης ἀθερίζειν,
 οὔνεκεν οὐ κούρη ζευῖξαι βόας, ἀλλὰ οἱ αὐτῷ
 προὔθεσαν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοῦ νεῖκος πέλεν ἀμφήριστον
 πατρί τε καὶ ξείνοισ· αὐτῇ δ' ἐπιέτρεπον ἄμφω
 τῶς ἔμεν, ὥς κεν ἐῆσι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν.
 ἡ δ' ἄφνω τὸν ξεῖνον, ἀφειδήσασα τοκῆων,
 εἴλετο· τοὺς δ' ἀμέγαρτον ἄχος λάβεν, ἐκ δ' ἐ-
 βόησαν

620

630

χωόμενοι· τὴν δ' ὕπνος ἅμα κλαγγῇ μεθέηκεν.
 παλλομένη δ' ἀνόρουσε φόβῳ, περὶ τ' ἀμφὶ τε τοί-
 χους

πάπτηνεν θαλάμοιο· μόλις δ' ἐσαγείρατο θυμόν
 ὥς πάρος ἐν στέρνοισ, ἀδινὴν δ' ἀνενεῖκατο φωνήν·
 'Δειλὴ ἐγών, οἷόν με βαρεῖς ἐφόβησαν ὄνειροι.
 δεῖδια, μὴ μέγα δὴ τι φέρη κακὸν ἦδε κέλευθος

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Meantime Argus, going to Aeetes' palace, with manifold pleading besought his mother to pray Medea's aid ; and Chalciope herself already had the same thoughts, but fear checked her soul lest haply either fate should withstand and she should entreat her in vain, all distraught as she would be at her father's deadly wrath, or, if Medea yielded to her prayers, her deeds should be laid bare and open to view.

Now a deep slumber had relieved the maiden from her love-pains as she lay upon her couch. But straightway fearful dreams, deceitful, such as trouble one in grief, assailed her. And she thought that the stranger had taken on him the contest, not because he longed to win the ram's fleece, and that he had not come on that account to Aeetes' city, but to lead her away, his wedded wife, to his own home ; and she dreamed that herself contended with the oxen and wrought the task with exceeding ease ; and that her own parents set at naught their promise, for it was not the maiden they had challenged to yoke the oxen but the stranger himself ; from that arose a contention of doubtful issue between her father and the strangers ; and both laid the decision upon her, to be as she should direct in her mind. But she suddenly, neglecting her parents, chose the stranger. And measureless anguish seized them and they shouted out in their wrath ; and with the cry sleep released its hold upon her. Quivering with fear she started up, and stared round the walls of her chamber, and with difficulty did she gather her spirit within her as before, and lifted her voice aloud :

“ Poor wretch, how have gloomy dreams affrighted me ! I fear that this voyage of the heroes will

ἡρώων. περί μοι ξείνῳ φρένες ἡερέθονται.
 μνάσθω ἔον κατὰ δῆμον Ἀχαιίδα τηλόθι κούρην·
 ἄμμι δὲ παρθενίη τε μέλοι καὶ δῶμα τοκῆων.
 ἔμπα γε μὴν θεμένῃ κύνεον κέαρ, οὐκέτ' ἀνευθεν
 αὐτοκασιγνήτης πειρήσομαι, εἴ κέ μ' ἀέθλω
 χραιομεῖν ἀντιάσῃσιν, ἐπὶ σφετέροις ἀχέουσα
 παισί· τό κέν μοι λυγρὸν ἐνὶ κραδίῃ σβέσαι¹ ἄλγος·

640

Ἡ ῥα, καὶ ὀρθωθείσα θύρας ὦιξε δόμοιο,
 νήλιπος, οἰέανος· καὶ δὴ λελίητο νέεσθαι
 αὐτοκασιγνήτηνδε, καὶ ἔρκεος οὐδὸν ἄμειψεν.
 δὴν δὲ καταυτόθι μίμνεν ἐνὶ προδόμῳ θαλάμοιο,
 αἰδοῖ ἔεργομένη· μετὰ δ' ἐτράπετ' αὐτὶς ὀπίσσω
 στρεφθεῖσ'· ἐκ δὲ πάλιν κίεν ἔνδοθεν, ἅψ τ' ἀλέ-
 εινεν

650

εἴσω· τηῦσιοι δὲ πόδες φέρον ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα·
 ἦτοι ὅτ' ἰθύσειεν, ἔρκε μιν ἔνδοθεν αἰδώς·
 αἰδοῖ δ' ἐργομένην θρασὺς ἴμερος ὀτρύνεσκεν.
 τρὶς μὲν ἐπειρήθη, τρὶς δ' ἔσχετο, τέταρτον αὐτὶς
 λέκτροισιν πρηγῆς ἐνικάππεσεν εἰλιχθεῖσα.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τις νύμφη θαλερὸν πόσιν ἐν θαλάμοισιν
 μύρεται, ᾧ μιν ὄπασσαν ἀδελφεοὶ ἡδὲ τοκῆς,
 οὐδέ τί πω πάσαις ἐπιμίσγεται ἀμφιπόλοισιν
 αἰδοῖ ἐπιφροσύνη τε· μυχῶ δ' ἀχέουσα θαύσσει·
 τὸν δέ τις ὦλεσε μοῖρα, πάρος ταρπήμεναι ἄμφω
 δῆνεσιν ἀλλήλων· ἡ δ' ἔνδοθι δαιομένη περ
 σίγα μάλα κλαίει χῆρον λέχος εἰσορόωσα,
 μή μιν κερτομέουσαι ἐπιστοβέωσι γυναῖκες·
 τῇ ἱκέλη Μήδεια κινύρετο. τὴν δέ τις ἄφνω
 μυρομένην μεσσηγὺς ἐπιπρομολοῦσ' ἐνόησεν

660

¹ σβέσαι Madvig: σβέσοι MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

bring some great evil. My heart is trembling for the stranger. Let him woo some Achæan girl far away among his own folk ; let maidenhood be mine and the home of my parents. Yet, taking to myself a reckless heart, I will no more keep aloof but will make trial of my sister to see if she will entreat me to aid in the contest, through grief for her own sons ; this would quench the bitter pain in my heart."

She spake, and rising from her bed opened the door of her chamber, bare-footed, clad in one robe ; and verily she desired to go to her sister, and crossed the threshold. And for long she stayed there at the entrance of her chamber, held back by shame ; and she turned back once more ; and again she came forth from within, and again stole back ; and idly did her feet bear her this way and that ; yea, as oft as she went straight on, shame held her within the chamber, and though held back by shame, bold desire kept urging her on. Thrice she made the attempt and thrice she checked herself, the fourth time she fell on her bed face downward, writhing in pain. And as when a bride in her chamber bewails her youthful husband, to whom her brothers and parents have given her, nor yet does she hold converse with all her attendants for shame and for thinking of him ; but she sits apart in her grief ; and some doom has destroyed him, before they have had pleasure of each other's charms ; and she with heart on fire silently weeps, beholding her widowed couch, in fear lest the women should mock and revile her : like to her did Medea lament. And suddenly as she was in the midst of her tears, one of

δμῳάων, ἣ οἱ ἐπέτις πέλε κουρίζουσα·
 Χαλκιόπη δ' ἤγγειλε παρασχεδόν· ἣ δ' ἐνὶ παισὶν
 ἦστ' ἐπιμητιόωσα κασιγνήτην ἀρέσασθαι.
 ἀλλ' οὐδ' ὧς ἀπίθησεν, ὅτ' ἔκλυεν ἀμφιπόλοιο
 μῦθον ἀνώιστον· διὰ δ' ἔσσυτο θαμβήσασα
 ἐκ θαλάμου θύλαμόνδε διαμπερές, ᾧ ἐνὶ κούρῃ
 κέκλιτ' ἀκηχεμένη, δρύψεν δ' ἐκάτερθε παρειάς·
 ὥς δ' ἶδε δάκρυσιν ὅσσε πεφυρμένα, φώνησέν μιν·

67

“ὦ μοι ἐγὼ, Μήδεια, τί δὴ τάδε δάκρυα λείβεις;
 τίπτ' ἔπαθες; τί τοι αἰνὸν ὑπὸ φρένας ἵκετο πέν-
 θος;

ἣ νύ σε θευμορίῃ περιδέδρομεν ἄψα νοῦσος,
 ἥέ τιν' οὐλομένην ἐδάης ἐκ πατρὸς ἐνιπὴν
 ἀμφί τ' ἐμοὶ καὶ παισίν; ὄφελλέ με μήτε τοκῆων
 δῶμα τόδ' εἰσοράαν, μηδὲ πτόλιν, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ γαίης
 πείρασι ναιετάειν, ἵνα μηδέ περ οὔνομα Κόλχων.”

68

ὣς φάτο· τῆς δ' ἐρύθηνε παρήια· δὴν δέ μιν αἰδὼς
 παρθενίῃ κατέρυκεν ἀμείψασθαι μεμαυῖαν.
 μῦθος δ' ἄλλοτε μέν οἱ ἐπ' ἀκροτάτης ἀνέτελλεν
 γλώσσης, ἄλλοτ' ἔνερθε κατὰ στηῆθος πεπόνητο.
 πολλάκι δ' ἱμερόεν μὲν ἀνὰ στόμα θῦεν ἐνισπείν·
 φθογγῇ δ' οὐ προύβαινε παροιτέρω· ὁψὲ δ' ἔειπεν
 τοῖα δόλῳ· θρασέες γὰρ ἐπεκλονέεσκον Ἑρωτες·

‘Χαλκιόπη, περί μοι παίδων σέο θυμὸς ἄηται,
 μή σφε πατὴρ ξείνοισι σὺν ἀνδράσιν αὐτίκ' ὀλέσση.
 τοῖα κατακνώσσοις μιν νυθαδίῳ νέον ὕπνῳ
 λεύσσω ὀνείρατα λυγρά, τά τις θεὸς ἀκράαντα
 θείῃ, μηδ' ἀλεγεινὸν ἐφ' υἷάσι κῆδος ἔλοιο.’

69

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

the handmaids came forth and noticed her, one who was her youthful attendant; and straightway she told Chalciope, who sat in the midst of her sons devising how to win over her sister. And when Chalciope heard the strange tale from the handmaid, not even so did she disregard it. And she rushed in dismay from her chamber right on to the chamber where the maiden lay in her anguish, having torn her cheeks on each side; and when Chalciope saw her eyes all dimmed with tears, she thus addressed her:

“Ah me, Medea, why dost thou weep so? What hath befallen thee? What terrible grief has entered thy heart? Has some heaven-sent disease enwrapt thy frame, or hast thou heard from our father some deadly threat concerning me and my sons? Would that I did not behold this home of my parents, or the city, but dwelt at the ends of the earth, where not even the name of Colchians is known!”

Thus she spake, and her sister's cheeks flushed; and though she was eager to reply, long did maiden shame restrain her. At one moment the word rose on the end of her tongue, at another it fluttered back deep within her breast. And often through her lovely lips it strove for utterance; but no sound came forth; till at last she spoke with guileful words; for the bold Loves were pressing her hard:

“Chalciope, my heart is all trembling for thy sons, lest my father forthwith destroy them together with the strangers. Slumbering just now in a short-lived sleep such a ghastly dream did I see—may some god forbid its fulfilment and never mayst thou win for thyself bitter care on thy sons' account.”

Φῆ ῥα, κασιγνήτης πειρωμένη, εἴ κέ μιν αὐτὴ
 ἀντιάσειε πάροιθεν ἐοῖς τεκέεσσιν ἀμύνειν.
 τὴν δ' αἰνῶς ἄτλητος ἐπέκλυσε θυμὸν ἀνὴ
 δείματι, τοῖ' ἐσάκουσεν· ἀμείβετο δ' ὦδ' ἐπέεσσιν·
 'Καὶ δ' αὐτὴ τάδε πάντα μετήλυθον ὀρμαίνουσα,
 εἴ τινα συμφράσσαιο καὶ ἀρτύνειας ἀρωγὴν.
 ἀλλ' ὅμοσον Γαῖάν τε καὶ Οὐρανόν, ὅττι τοι εἴπω
 σχήσειν ἐν θυμῷ, σὺν τε δρήστειρα πέλεσθαι.
 λίσσομ' ὑπὲρ μακάρων σέο τ' αὐτῆς ἠδὲ τοκῆων,
 μή σφε κακῇ ὑπὸ κηρὶ διαρραισθέντας ἰδέσθαι
 λευγαλέως· ἢ σοίγε φίλοις σὺν παισὶ θανοῦσα
 εἶην ἐξ 'Αίδεω στυγερὴ μετόπισθεν Ἑρινύς.'

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη, τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπεξέχυτ' αὐτίκα
 δάκρυ·

νειόθι θ' ἀμφοτέρησι περίσχετο γούνατα χερσίν,
 σὺν δὲ κάρη κόλποις περικάββαλεν. ἔνθ' ἐλεεινὸν
 ἄμφω ἐπ' ἀλλήλησι θέσαν γόον· ὦρτο δ' ἰωὴ
 λεπταλέῃ διὰ δώματ' ὀδυρομένων ἀχέεσσιν.

τὴν δὲ πάρος Μήδεια προσέννεπεν ἀσχαλόωσα·

'Δαιμονίη, τί νύ τοι ῥέξω ἄκος, οἳ' ἀγορεύεις,
 ἀράς τε στυγεράς καὶ Ἑρινύας; αἱ γὰρ ὄφελλεν
 ἔμπεδον εἶναι ἐπ' ἄμμι τεοὺς νύηας ἔρυσθαι.
 ἴστω Κόλχων ὄρκος ὑπέρβιος ὄντιν' ὁμόσσαι
 αὐτὴ ἐποτρύνεις, μέγας Οὐρανός, ἢ θ' ὑπένερθεν
 Γαῖα, θεῶν μήτηρ, ὅσσον σθένης ἐστὶν ἐμεῖο,
 μή σ' ἐπιδευήσεσθαι, ἀνυστά περ ἀντιώσαν.'

Φῆ ἄρα· Χαλκιόπη δ' ἡμείβετο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·
 'Οὐκ ἂν δὴ ξείνῳ τλαίης χατέοντι καὶ αὐτῷ
 ἢ δόλον, ἢ τινα μῆτιν ἐπιφράσσασθαι ἀέθλου,
 παίδων εἵνεκ' ἐμεῖο; καὶ ἐκ κείνοιο δ' ἰκάνει

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

She spake, making trial of her sister to see if she first would entreat help for her sons. And utterly unbearable grief surged over Chalciope's soul for fear at what she heard; and then she replied: "Yea, I myself too have come to thee in eager furtherance of this purpose, if thou wouldst haply devise with me and prepare some help. But swear by Earth and Heaven that thou wilt keep secret in thy heart what I shall tell thee, and be fellow-worker with me. I implore thee by the blessed gods, by thyself and by thy parents, not to see them destroyed by an evil doom piteously; or else may I die with my dear sons and come back hereafter from Hades an avenging Fury to haunt thee."

Thus she spake, and straightway a torrent of tears gushed forth, and low down she clasped her sister's knees with both hands and let her head sink on to her breast. Then they both made piteous lamentation over each other, and through the halls rose the faint sound of women weeping in anguish. Medea, sore troubled, first addressed her sister:

"God help thee, what healing can I bring thee for what thou speakest of, horrible curses and Furies? Would that it were firmly in my power to save thy sons! Be witness that mighty oath of the Colchians by which thou urgest me to swear, the great Heaven, and Earth beneath, mother of the gods, that as far as strength lies in me, never shalt thou fail of help, if only thy prayers can be accomplished."

She spake, and Chalciope thus replied: "Couldst thou not then, for the stranger—who himself craves thy aid—devise some trick or some wise thought to win the contest, for the sake of my sons? And from

"Αργος, ἐποτρύνων με τεῆς πειρῆσαι ἀρωγῆς·
μεσσηγὺς μὲν τόνγε δόμῳ λίπον ἐνθάδ' ἰοῦσα.'

Ὡς φάτο· τῇ δ' ἐντοσθεν ἀνέπτατο χάρματι
θυμός,

φοινίχθη δ' ἄμυδις καλὸν χρῶα, καὶ δέ μιν ἀχλὺς
εἶλεν ἰαινομένην, τοῖον δ' ἐπὶ μῦθον ἔειπεν·

Ἵ Χαλκιοῖα, ὥς ὕμμι φίλον τερπνόν τε τέτυκται,
ὥς ἔρξω. μὴ γάρ μοι ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι φαείνοι
ῥῶς, μηδέ με δηρὸν ἔτι ζώουσας ἴδοιο,

εἴ γέ τι σῆς ψυχῆς προφερέστερον, ἢ τι παίδων 73
σὼν θείην, οἳ δὴ μοι ἀδελφείοι γεγάασιν,

κηδεμόνες τε φίλοι καὶ ὁμήλικες. ὥς δέ καὶ αὐτὴ
φημὶ κασιγνήτη τε σέθεν κούρη τε πέλεσθαι,

ἴσον ἐπεὶ κείνοις με τεῶ ἐπαείραο μαζῶ
νηπυτίην, ὥς αἰὲν ἐγὼ ποτε μητρὸς ἄκουον.

ἀλλ' ἴθι, κεῦθε δ' ἐμὴν σιγῇ χάριν, ὅφρα τρεῖς
λήσομαι ἐντύνουσα ὑπόσχεσιν· ἥρι δὲ νηὸν
οἴσομαι¹ εἰς Ἑκάτης θελκτῆρια φάρμακα ταύρων.'

Ὡς ἦγ' ἐκ θαλάμοιο πάλιν κίε, παισὶ τ' ἀρωγὴν 74
αὐτοκασιγνήτης διεπέφραδε. τὴν δέ μιν αὖτις²

αἰδώς τε στυγερόν τε δέος λάβε μουνωθείσαν,
τοῖα παρέξ οὐ πατρὸς ἐπ' ἀνέρι μητιᾶσθαι.

Νύξ μὲν ἔπειτ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἄγεν κνέφας· οἳ δ'
ἐνὶ πόντῳ

ναῦται³ εἰς Ἑλίκην τε καὶ ἀστέρας Ὠρίωνος
ἔδρακον ἐκ νηῶν· ὕπνοιο δὲ καὶ τις ὁδίτης
ἤδη καὶ πυλαωρὸς ἐέλδετο· καὶ τινα παίδων
μητέρα τεθνεώτων ἀδινὸν περὶ κῶμ' ἐκάλυπτεν·

¹ οἴσομαι L. After this line occurs in scholia as a variant
the line οἴσομένη ξείνῳ ὑπὲρ οὗ τόδε νεῖκος ὕρπε.

² μάλ' αὖτις and μεταῦτις have been conjectured.

³ ναυτίλοι Porson.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

him has come Argus urging me to try to win thy help; I left him in the palace meantime while I came hither."

Thus she spake, and Medea's heart bounded with joy within her, and at once her fair cheeks flushed, and a mist swam before her melting eyes, and she spake as follows: "Chalciope, as is dear and delightful to thee and thy sons, even so will I do. Never may the dawn appear again to my eyes, never mayst thou see me living any longer, if I should take thought for anything before thy life or thy sons' lives, for they are my brothers, my dear kinsmen and youthful companions. So do I declare myself to be thy sister, and thy daughter too, for thou didst lift me to thy breast when an infant equally with them, as I ever heard from my mother in past days. But go, bury my kindness in silence, so that I may carry out my promise unknown to my parents; and at dawn I will bring to Hecate's temple charms to cast a spell upon the bulls."

Thus Chalciope went back from the chamber, and made known to her sons the help given by her sister. And again did shame and hateful fear seize Medea thus left alone, that she should devise such deeds for a man in her father's despite.

Then did night draw darkness over the earth; and on the sea sailors from their ships looked towards the Bear and the stars of Orion; and now the wayfarer and the warder longed for sleep, and the pall of slumber wrapped round the mother whose children were dead; nor was there any more

οὐδὲ κυνῶν ὕλακὴ ἔτ' ἀνὰ πτόλιν, οὐ θρόος ἦεν
 ἡχῆεις· σιγὴ δὲ μελαινομένην ἔχεν ὄρφνην. 75
 ἀλλὰ μάλ' οὐ Μήδειαν ἐπὶ γλυκερὸς λάβεν ὕπνος.
 πολλὰ γὰρ Αἰσονίδαο πόθῳ μελεδήματ' ἔχειρεν
 δειδυῖαν ταύρων κρατερὸν μένος, οἷσιν ἔμελλεν
 φθίσθαι ἀεικελίῃ μοίρῃ κατὰ νειὸν Ἴλῃος.
 πυκνὰ δέ οἱ κραδίῃ στηθέων ἔντοσθεν ἔθνιεν,
 ἡελίου ὥς τίς τε δόμοις ἐνιπάλλεται αἴγλη
 ὕδατος ἑξανιούσα, τὸ δὲ νέον ἡὲ λέβητι
 ἡέ που ἐν γαυλῷ κέχυται· ἡ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 ὠκείῃ στροφάλιγγι τινάσσεται αἰσσοῦσα·
 ὥς δὲ καὶ ἐν στήθεσσι κέαρ ἐλελίζετο κούρης. 76
 δάκρυ δ' ἀπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἐλέω ῥέεν· ἔνδοθι δ' αἰεὶ
 τεῖρ' ὀδύνη σμύχουσα διὰ χροός, ἀμφί τ' ἀραιὰς
 ἵνας καὶ κεφαλῆς ὑπὸ νείατον ἰνίον ἄχρῃς,
 ἔνθ' ἀλεγεινότατον δύνει ἄχος, ὀππότε' ἀνίας
 ἀκάματοι πραπίδεςσιν ἐνισκίμψωσιν Ἴρωτες.
 φῆ δέ οἱ ἄλλοτε μὲν θελκτήρια φάρμακα ταύρων
 δωσέμεν, ἄλλοτε δ' οὔτι· καταφθίσθαι δὲ καὶ αὐτὴν
 αὐτίκα δ' οὔτ' αὐτὴ θανέειν, οὐ φάρμακα δώσειν,
 ἀλλ' αὐτῶς εὐκῆλος ἔην ὀτλησέμεν ἄτην. 77
 ἐξομένη δ' ἤπειτα δοάσσατο, φώνησέν τε·

‘Δειλὴ ἐγώ, νῦν ἔνθα κακῶν ἢ ἔνθα γένωμαι·
 πάντῃ μοι φρένες εἰσὶν ἀμήχανοι· οὐδέ τις ἀλκὴ
 πῆματος· ἀλλ' αὐτῶς φλέγει ἔμπεδον. ὥς ὄφελόν γε
 Ἄρτέμιδος κραιπνοῖσι πάρος βελέεσσι δαμῆναι,
 πρὶν τόνγ' εἰσιδέειν, πρὶν Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι
 Χαλκιοπῆς υἱας. τοὺς μὲν θεὸς ἢ τις Ἐρινὶς
 ἄμμι πολυκλαύτους δεῦρ' ἤγαγε κέῃθεν ἀνίας.
 φθίσθω ἀεθλεύων, εἴ οἱ κατὰ νειὸν ὀλέσθαι

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

the barking of dogs through the city, nor sound of men's voices ; but silence held the blackening gloom. But not indeed upon Medea came sweet sleep. For in her love for Aeson's son many cares kept her wakeful, and she dreaded the mighty strength of the bulls, beneath whose fury he was like to perish by an unseemly fate in the field of Ares. And fast did her heart throb within her breast, as a sunbeam quivers upon the walls of a house when flung up from water, which is just poured forth in a caldron or a pail may be ; and hither and thither on the swift eddy does it dart and dance along ; even so the maiden's heart quivered in her breast. And the tear of pity flowed from her eyes, and ever within anguish tortured her, a smouldering fire through her frame, and about her fine nerves and deep down beneath the nape of the neck where the pain enters keenest, whenever the unwearied Loves direct against the heart their shafts of agony. And she thought now that she would give him the charms to cast a spell on the bulls, now that she would not, and that she herself would perish ; and again that she would not perish and would not give the charms, but just as she was would endure her fate in silence. Then sitting down she wavered in mind and said :

“Poor wretch, must I toss hither and thither in woe ? On every side my heart is in despair ; nor is there any help for my pain ; but it burneth ever thus. Would that I had been slain by the swift shafts of Artemis before I had set eyes on him, before Chalciope's sons reached the Achæan land. Some god or some Fury brought them hither for our grief, a cause of many tears. Let him perish in the contest if it be his lot to die in the field. For how

μοῖρα πέλει. πῶς γάρ κεν ἐμὸνς λελάθοιμι τοκῆας
 φάρμακα μησαμένη; ποῖον δ' ἐπὶ μῦθον ἐνίψω; 780
 τίς δὲ δόλος, τίς μῆτις ἐπὶ κλοπος ἔσσετ' ἀρωγῆς;
 ἦ μιν ἄνευθ' ἐτάρων προσπτύξομαι οἶον ἰδοῦσα;
 δύσμορος· οὐ μὲν ἔολπα καταφθιμένοιό περ ἔμπης
 λωφήσειν ἀχέων· τότε δ' ἂν κακὸν ἄμμι πέλοιτο,
 κείνος ὅτε ζωῆς ἀπαμείρεται. ἔρρέτω αἰδῶς,
 ἔρρέτω ἀγλαΐη· ὁ δ' ἐμῇ ἰότητι σωθεῖς
 ἀσκηθῆς, ἵνα οἱ θυμῷ φίλον, ἔνθα νέοιτο.
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν αὐτῆμαρ, ὅτ' ἐξανύσειεν ἄεθλον,
 τεθναίνην, ἣ λαιμὸν ἀναρτήσασα μελάθρῳ,
 ἣ καὶ πασσαμένη ραιστήρια φάρμακα θυμοῦ. 790
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ὥς φθιμένη μοι ἐπιλλίξουσιν ὀπίσσω
 κερτομίας· τηλοῦ δὲ πόλις περὶ πᾶσα βοήσει
 πότμον ἐμόν· καὶ κέν με διὰ στόματος φορέουσαι
 Κολχίδες ἄλλυδις ἄλλαι ἀεικέα μωμήσονται·
 ἥτις κηδομένη τόσον ἀνέρος ἄλλοδαποῖο
 κάτθανεν, ἥτις δῶμα καὶ οὖς ἥσχυνε τοκῆας,
 μαργοσύνη εἴξασα. τί δ' οὐκ ἐμόν ἔσσεται αἰσχος;
 ὧ μοι ἐμῆς ἄτης. ἦ τ' ἂν πολὺ κέρδιον εἶη
 τῇδ' αὐτῇ ἐν νυκτὶ λιπεῖν βίον ἐν θαλάμοισιν
 πότμῳ ἀνωίστῳ, κάκ' ἐλέγχεα πάντα φυγοῦσαν, 800
 πρὶν τάδε λωβήεντα καὶ οὐκ ὀνομαστὰ τελέσσαι·

Ἦ, καὶ φωριαμὸν μετεκίαθεν, ἣ ἔνι πολλὰ
 φάρμακά οἱ, τὰ μὲν ἐσθλά, τὰ δὲ ραιστήρι', ἔκειτο.
 ἐνθεμένη δ' ἐπὶ γούνατ' ὀδύρετο. δεῦτε δὲ κόλπους
 ἄλληκτον δακρύοισι, τὰ δ' ἔρρεεν ἀσταγὲς αὐτῶς,
 αἶν' ὀλοφυρομένης τὸν ἐὼν μόρον. ἴετο δ' ἤγε
 φάρμακα λέξασθαι θυμοφθόρα, τόφρα πάσαιτο.
 ἥδη καὶ δεσμοὺς ἀνελύετο φωριαμοῖο,
 ἐξελέειν μεμανῖα, δυσάμμορος. ἀλλὰ οἱ ἄφνω

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

could I prepare the charms without my parents' knowledge? What story can I tell them? What trick, what cunning device for aid can I find? If I see him alone, apart from his comrades, shall I greet him? Ill-starred that I am! I cannot hope that I should rest from my sorrows even though he perished; then will evil come to me when he is bereft of life. Perish all shame, perish all glory; may he, saved by my effort, go scatheless wherever his heart desires. But as for me, on the day when he bides the contest in triumph, may I die either straining my neck in the noose from the roof-tree or tasting drugs destructive of life. But even so, when I am dead, they will fling out taunts against me; and every city far away will ring with my doom, and the Colchian women, tossing my name on their lips hither and thither, will revile me with unseemly mocking—the maid who cared so much for a stranger that she died, the maid who disgraced her home and her parents, yielding to a mad passion. And what disgrace will not be mine? Alas for my infatuation! Far better would it be for me to forsake life this very night in my chamber by some mysterious fate, escaping all slanderous reproach, before I complete such nameless dishonour."

She spake, and brought a casket wherein lay many drugs, some for healing, others for killing, and placing it upon her knees she wept. And she drenched her bosom with ceaseless tears, which flowed in torrents as she sat, bitterly bewailing her own fate. And she longed to choose a murderous drug to taste it, and now she was loosening the bands of the casket eager to take it forth, unhappy maid! But suddenly a deadly fear of

δεῖμ' ὀλοὸν στυγεροῖο κατὰ φρένας ἦλθ' Ἀίδαο.
ἔσχετο δ' ἀμφασίῃ δηρὸν χρόνον, ἀμφὶ δὲ πᾶσαι
θυμηδεῖς βιότοιο μεληδόνες ἰνδάλλοντο.

810

μνήσατο μὲν τερπνῶν, ὅσ' ἐνὶ ζωοῖσι πέλονται,
μνήσαθ' ὀμηλικίης περιγηθέος, οἷά τε κούρη·
καὶ τέ οἱ ἥελιος γλυκίων γένετ' εἰσοράασθαι,
ἢ πάρος, εἰ ἐτεόν γε νόῳ ἐπεμαίεθ' ἕκαστα.
καὶ τὴν μὲν ῥα πάλιν σφετέρων ἀποκάτθετο
γούνων,

Ἥρης ἐννεσίησι μετάτροπος, οὐδ' ἔτι βουλὰς
ἄλλη δοιάζεσκεν· ἐέλδετο δ' αἶψα φανῆναι
ἡῶ τελλομένην, ἵνα οἱ θελκτῆρια δοίῃ
φάρμακα συνθεσίησι, καὶ ἀντήσειεν ἐς ὦπῆν.
πυκνὰ δ' ἀνὰ κληῖδας ἐὼν λύσκε θυράων,
αἶγλην σκεπτομένη· τῇ δ' ἀσπᾶσιον βάλε φέγγος
Ἥριγενής, κίνυντο δ' ἀνὰ πτολίεθρον ἕκαστοι.

820

Ἐνθα κασιγνήτους μὲν ἔτ' αὐτόθι μέναι ἀνώγει
Ἄργος, ἵνα φράζοιντο νόον καὶ μήδεα κούρης·
αὐτὸς δ' αὖτ' ἐπὶ νῆα κίεν προπάροιθε λιασθεῖς.

Ἡ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν τὰ πρῶτα φαινομένην ἶδεν ἡῶ
παρθενική, ξανθὰς μὲν ἀνήψατο χερσὶν ἐθείρας,
αἷ οἱ ἀτημελίῃ καταειμέναι ἠερέθοντο,
αὐσταλέας δ' ἔψησε παρηίδας· αὐτὰρ ἀλοιφῇ
νεκταρὲν φαιδρύνετ' ἐπὶ χροᾷ· δύνε δὲ πέπλον
καλόν, εὐγνάμπτοισιν ἀρηρέμενον περόνησιν·
ἀμβροσίῳ δ' ἐφύπερθε καρήατι βάλλε καλύπτρην
ἀργυφέν. αὐτοῦ δὲ δόμοις ἐνὶ δινεύουσα
στεῖβε πέδον λήθη ἀχέων, τὰ οἱ ἐν ποσὶν ἦεν
θεσπέσι', ἄλλα τ' ἔμελλεν ἀεξήσεσθαι ὀπίσσω.
κέκλετο δ' ἀμφιπόλοισ, αἷ οἱ δυοκαῖδεκα πᾶσαι
ἐν προδόμῳ θαλάμοιο θυώδεος ἠϋλίζοντο

830

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

hateful Hades came upon her heart. And long she held back in speechless horror, and all around her thronged visions of the pleasing cares of life. She thought of all the delightful things that are among the living, she thought of her joyous play-mates, as a maiden will; and the sun grew sweeter than ever to behold, seeing that in truth her soul yearned for all. And she put the casket again from off her knees, all changed by the prompting of Hera, and no more did she waver in purpose; but longed for the rising dawn to appear quickly, that she might give him the charms to work the spell as she had promised, and meet him face to face. And often did she loosen the bolts of her door, to watch for the faint gleam: and welcome to her did the dayspring shed its light, and folk began to stir throughout the city.

Then Argus bade his brothers remain there to learn the maiden's mind and plans, but himself turned back and went to the ship.

Now soon as ever the maiden saw the light of dawn, with her hands she gathered up her golden tresses which were floating round her shoulders in careless disarray, and bathed her tear-stained cheeks, and made her skin shine with ointment sweet as nectar; and she donned a beautiful robe, fitted with well-bent clasps, and above on her head, divinely fair, she threw a veil gleaming like silver. And there, moving to and fro in the palace, she trod the ground forgetful of the heaven-sent woes thronging round her and of others that were destined to follow. And she called to her maids. Twelve they were, who lay during the night in the vestibule of her fragrant chamber, young as herself, not yet

ἥλικες, οὐπω λέκτρα σὺν ἀνδράσι πορσύνουσαι, 840
 ἐσσυμένως οὐρήας ὑποζεύξασθαι ἀπήνη,
 οἳ κέ μιν εἰς Ἑκάτης περικαλλέα νηὸν ἄγοιεν.
 ἔνθ' αὐτ' ἀμφίπολοι μὲν ἐφοπλίζεσκον ἀπήνην·
 ἡ δὲ τέως γλαφυρῆς ἐξείλετο φωριαμοῖο
 φάρμακον, ὃ ῥά τέ φασι Προμήθειον καλέεσθαι.
 τῷ εἴ κ' ἐννουχίοισιν ἀρεσσάμενος θυέεσσιν
 Κούρην¹ μουννογένειαν ἐὼν δέμας ἱκμαίνοιτο,
 ἦ τ' ἂν ὄγ' οὔτε ῥηκτὸς ἔοι χαλκοῖο τυπῆσιν,
 οὔτε κεν αἰθομένῳ πυρὶ εἰκάθοι· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀλκῇ 850
 λωίτερος κείν' ἡμαρ ὁμῶς κάρτει τε πέλοιτο.
 πρωτοφυῆς τόγ' ἀνέσχε καταστάξαντος ἔραζε
 αἰετοῦ ὠμηστέῳ κνημοῖς ἐνὶ Καυκασίοισιν
 αἵματόεντ' ἰχῶρα Προμηθῆος μογεροῖο.
 τοῦ δ' ἦτοι ἄνθος μὲν ὅσον πήχυνιον ὑπερθεν
 χροίῃ Κωρυκίῳ ἱκελον κρόκῳ ἐξεφαάνθη,
 καυλοῖσιν διδύμοισιν ἐπήγορον· ἡ δ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ
 σαρκὶ νεοτμήτῳ ἐναλιγκίῃ ἔπλετο ῥίζα.
 τῆς οἴην τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι κελαινὴν ἱκμάδα φηγοῦ
 Κασπὴν ἐν κόχλῳ ἀμήσατο φαρμάσσεσθαι,
 ἐπτά μὲν ἀενάοισι λοεσσαμένη ὑδάτεσσιν, 860
 ἐπτάκι δὲ Βριμῶ κουροτρόφον ἀγκαλέσασα,
 Βριμῶ νυκτιπόλον, χθονίην, ἐνέροισιν ἄνασσαν,
 λυγαίῃ ἐνὶ νυκτί, σὺν ὀρφναίοις φάρεσσιν.
 μυκηθμῷ δ' ὑπένερθεν ἐρεμνὴ σείετο γαῖα,
 ῥίζης τεμνομένης Τιτηνίδος· ἔστενε δ' αὐτὸς
 Ἰαπετοῖο πάϊς ὀδύνη πέρι θυμὸν ἀλύων.
 τό ῥ' ἦγ' ἐξανελούσα θυώδεϊ κάτθετο μίτρῃ,
 ἦτε οἱ ἀμβροσίοισι περὶ στήθεσσιν ἔερτο.
 ἐκ δὲ θύραζε κιούσα θεῆς ἐπεβήσατ' ἀπήνης·
 σὺν δέ οἱ ἀμφίπολοι δοιαὶ ἐκάτερθεν ἔβησαν. 870

¹ Κούρην] Δαῖραν G, schol.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

sharing the bridal couch, and she bade them hastily yoke the mules to the chariot to bear her to the beauteous shrine of Hecate. Thereupon the handmaids were making ready the chariot; and Medea meanwhile took from the hollow casket a charm which men say is called the charm of Prometheus. If a man should anoint his body therewithal, having first appeased the Maiden, the only-begotten, with sacrifice by night, surely that man could not be wounded by the stroke of bronze nor would he flinch from blazing fire; but for that day he would prove superior both in prowess and in might. It shot up first-born when the ravening eagle on the rugged flanks of Caucasus let drip to the earth the blood-like ichor¹ of tortured Prometheus. And its flower appeared a cubit above ground in colour like the Corycian crocus, rising on twin stalks; but in the earth the root was like newly-cut flesh. The dark juice of it, like the sap of a mountain-oak, she had gathered in a Caspian shell to make the charm withal, when she had first bathed in seven ever-flowing streams, and had called seven times on Brimo, nurse of youth, night-wandering Brimo, of the underworld, queen among the dead,—in the gloom of night, clad in dusky garments. And beneath, the dark earth shook and bellowed when the Titanian root was cut; and the son of Iapetus himself groaned, his soul distraught with pain. And she brought the charm forth and placed it in the fragrant band which engirdled her, just beneath her bosom, divinely fair. And going forth she mounted the swift chariot, and with her went two handmaidens on each side. And she herself took the reins and in

¹ i.e. the liquid that flows in the veins of gods.

αὐτὴ δ' ἤν' ἔδεκτο καὶ εὐποίητον ἱμάσθλην
 δεξιτερῇ, ἔλαεν δὲ δι' ἄστεος· αἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
 ἀμφίπολοι, πείρινθος ἐφαπτόμεναι μετόπισθεν,
 τρώχων εὐρεῖαν κατ' ἀμαξιτόν· ἂν δὲ χιτῶνας
 λεπταλέους λευκῆς ἐπιγουνίδος ἄχρῖς ἄειρον.
 οἷη δὲ λιανοῖσιν ἐφ' ὕδασι Παρθενίοιο,
 ἥ καὶ Ἀμνισοῖο λοεσσαμένη ποταμοῖο
 χρυσείοις Λητωῖς ἐφ' ἄρμασιν ἐστηνῖα
 ὠκείαις κεμάδεσσι διεξελάσῃσι κολῶνας,
 τηλόθεν ἀντιώσα πολυκίσου ἐκατόμβης·
 τῇ δ' ἅμα νύμφαι ἔπονται ἀμορβάδες, αἱ μὲν ἐπ'
 αὐτῆς

886

ἀγρόμεναι πηγῆς Ἀμνισίδος, ἂν δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
 ἄλσεα καὶ σκοπιάς πολυπίδακας· ἀμφὶ δὲ θῆρες
 κνυζηθμῷ σαίνουσιν ὑποτρομέοντες ἰοῦσαν·
 ὥς αἶγ' ἐσσεύοντο δι' ἄστεος· ἀμφὶ δὲ λαοὶ
 εἶκον, ἀλευάμενοι βασιληίδος ὄμματα κούρης.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ πόλιος μὲν ἐνδμήτους λίπ' ἀγνιῆς,
 νηὸν δ' εἰσαφίκανε διέκ πεδίων ἐλάουσα,
 δὴ τότε ἔντροχάλοιο κατ' αὐτόθι βήσατ' ἀπίνης
 ἰεμένη, καὶ τοῖα μετὰ δμῶῃσιν ἔειπεν·

890

᾿Ω φίλαι, ἧ μέγα δὴ τι παρήλιτον, οὐδ' ἐνόησα
 μὴ ἴμεν¹ ἄλλοδαποῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσιν, οἷτ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν
 ἡμετέρεην στρωφῶσιν· ἀμνηχανίη βεβόληται
 πᾶσα πόλις· τὸ καὶ οὔτις ἀνίλυνθε δεῦρο γυναικῶν
 τάων, αἰ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐπημάτιαι ἀγέρονται.
 ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἰκόμεσθα, καὶ οὐ νύ τις ἄλλος ἔπεισιν,
 εἰ δ' ἄγε μολπῇ θυμὸν ἀφειδείως κορέσωμεν
 μελιχίῃ, τὰ δὲ καλὰ τερείνης ἀνθεα ποίης
 λεξάμεναι τότε ἔπειτ' αὐτὴν ἀπονισσόμεθ' ὥρην.

¹ μῆνιμ' Merkel.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

her right hand the well-fashioned whip, and drove through the city ; and the rest, the handmaids, laid their hands on the chariot behind and ran along the broad highway ; and they kilted up their light robes above their white knees. And even as by the mild waters of Parthenius, or after bathing in the river Amnisus, Leto's daughter stands upon her golden chariot and courses over the hills with her swift-footed roes, to greet from afar some richly-steaming hecatomb ; and with her come the nymphs in attendance, gathering, some at the spring of Amnisus itself, others by the glens and many-fountained peaks ; and round her whine and fawn the beasts cowering as she moves along : thus they sped through the city ; and on both sides the people gave way, shunning the eyes of the royal maiden. But when she had left the city's well paved streets, and was approaching the shrine as she drove over the plains, then she alighted eagerly from the smooth-running chariot and spake as follows among her maidens :

“ Friends, verily have I sinned greatly and took no heed not to go among the stranger-folk¹ who roam over our land. The whole city is smitten with dismay ; wherefore no one of the women who formerly gathered here day by day has now come hither. But since we have come and no one else draws near, come, let us satisfy our souls without stint with soothing song, and when we have plucked the fair flowers amid the tender grass, that very hour will we

¹ Or, reading *μήνιμ'*, “ took no heed of the cause of wrath with the stranger-folk ”

καὶ δέ κε σὺν πολέεσσιν ὀνείασιν οἴκαδ' ἵκοισθε 90
 ἥματι τῷ, εἴ μοι συναρέσσετε τήνδε μενοιμήν.
 "Αργος γάρ μ' ἐπέεσσι παρατρέπει, ὥς δέ καὶ αὐτὴ
 Χαλκιόπη· τὰ δὲ σίγα νόῳ ἔχετ' εἰσαΐουσαι
 ἐξ ἐμέθεν, μὴ πατρὸς ἐς οὔατα μῦθος ἵκηται.
 τὸν ξεῖνόν με κέλονται, ὅτις περὶ βουσὶν ὑπέστη,
 δῶρ' ἀποδεξαμένην ὀλοῶν ῥύσασθαι ἀέθλων.
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ τὸν μῦθον ἐπῆνεον, ἥδ' ἐκαὶ αὐτὸν
 κέκλωμαι εἰς ὠπὴν ἐτάρων ἄπο μῦνον ἰκέσθαι,
 ὄφρα τὰ μὲν δασόμεσθα μετὰ σφίσιν, εἴ κεν ὀπάσση
 δῶρα φέρων, τῷ δ' αὖτε κακώτερον ἄλλο πόρωμεν 91
 φάρμακον. ἀλλ' ἀπονόσφι πέλεσθέ μοι, εὖτ' ἂν ἵκη-
 ται.

Ὡς ἡὔδα· πάσῃσι δ' ἐπὶ κλοπος ἦνδανε μῆτις.
 αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδην ἐτάρων ἄπο μῦνον ἐρύσσας
 "Αργος, ὅτ' ἤδη τήνδε κασιγνήτων ἐσάκουσεν
 ἡερίην Ἐκάτης ἱερὸν μετὰ νηὸν ἰοῦσαν,
 ἦγε διέκ πεδίου· ἅμα δέ σφισιν εἶπετο Μόψος
 Ἀμπυκίδης, ἐσθλὸς μὲν ἐπιπροφανέντας ἐνισπεῖν
 οἰωνούς, ἐσθλὸς δὲ σὺν εὖ φράσσασθαι ἰοῦσιν.

"Ενθ' οὐπω τις τοῖος ἐπὶ προτέρων γένετ' ἀνδρῶν,
 οὔθ' ὅσοι ἐξ αὐτοῖο Διὸς γένος, οὔθ' ὅσοι ἄλλων 920
 ἀθανάτων ἥρωες ἀφ' αἵματος ἐβλάστησαν,
 οἶον Ἰήσωνα θῆκε Διὸς δάμαρ ἥματι κείνῳ
 ἡμὲν ἐσάντα ἰδεῖν, ἥδ' ἐπ' ὀπιμυθήσασθαι.
 τὸν καὶ παπταίνοντες ἐθάμβεον αὐτοὶ ἐταῖροι
 λαμπόμενον χαρίτεσσιν· ἐγήθησεν δὲ κελεύθῳ
 Ἀμπυκίδης, ἥδη που οἰσάμενος τὰ ἕκαστα.

"Εστι δέ τις πεδίοιο κατὰ στίβον ἐγγύθι νηοῦ
 αἵγειρος φύλλοισιν ἀπειρεσίῳ κομόωσα,
 τῇ θαμὰ δὴ λακέρυζαι ἐπηυλίζοντο κορῶναι.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

return. And with many a gift shall ye reach home this very day, if ye will gladden me with this desire of mine. For Argus pleads with me, also Chalciope herself; but this that ye hear from me keep silently in your hearts, lest the tale reach my father's ears. As for yon stranger who took on him the task with the oxen, they bid me receive his gifts and rescue him from the deadly contest. And I approved their counsel, and I have summoned him to come to my presence apart from his comrades, so that we may divide the gifts among ourselves if he bring them in his hands, and in return may give him a baleful charm. But when he comes, do ye stand aloof."

So she spake, and the crafty counsel pleased them all. And straightway Argus drew Aeson's son apart from his comrades as soon as he heard from his brothers that Medea had gone at daybreak to the holy shrine of Hecate, and led him over the plain; and with them went Mopsus, son of Ampycus, skilled to utter oracles from the appearance of birds, and skilled to give good counsel to those who set out on a journey.

Never yet had there been such a man in the days of old, neither of all the heroes of the lineage of Zeus himself, nor of those who sprung from the blood of the other gods, as on that day the bride of Zeus made Jason, both to look upon and to hold converse with. Even his comrades wondered as they gazed upon him, radiant with manifold graces; and the son of Ampycus rejoiced in their journey, already foreboding how all would end.

Now by the path along the plain there stands near the shrine a poplar with its crown of countless leaves, whereon often chattering crows would roost. One

τάων τις μεσσηγὺς ἀνὰ πτερὰ κινήσασα
ὑψοῦ ἐπ' ἀκρεμόνων Ἥρης ἠνίπαπε βουλάς· 930

Ἄκλειῆς ὅδε μάντις, ὃς οὐδ' ὅσα παῖδες ἴσασιν
οἶδε νόῳ φράσσασθαι, ὀθούνεκεν οὔτε τι λαρὸν
οὔτ' ἐρατὸν κούρη κεν ἔπος προτιμυθήσαιο
ἠιθέω, εὖτ' ἄν σφιν ἐπήλυδες ἄλλοι ἔπωνται.
ἔρροις, ὦ κακόμαντι, κακοφραδές· οὔτε σε Κύπρις,
οὔτ' ἀγανοὶ φιλέοντες ἐπιπνεύουσιν Ἑρωτες.

Ἴσκειν ἀτεμβομένη· μείδῃσε δὲ Μόψος ἀκούσας
ὀμφὴν οἶωνοῖο θεήλατον, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·

Ἔννη μὲν νηόνδε θεᾶς ἴθι, τῷ ἔνι κούρην· 940
δήεις, Αἰσονίδη· μάλα δ' ἠπίῃ ἀντιβολήσεις
Κύπριδος ἐννεσίης, ἣ τοι συνέριθος ἀέθλων
ἔσσεται, ὥς δὴ καὶ πρὶν Ἀγνηορίδης φάτο Φινεύς.
νῶι δ', ἐγὼν Ἄργος τε, δεδεγμένοι, εὖτ' ἄν ἵκηαι,
τῷδ' αὐτῷ ἐνὶ χώρῳ ἀπεσσόμεθ'· οἴοθι δ' αὐτὸς
λίσσεό μιν πυκινοῖσι παρατροπέων ἐπέεσσιν.

Ἡ ῥα περιφραδέως, ἐπὶ δὲ σχεδὸν ἦνεον ἄμφω.
οὐδ' ἄρα Μηδείης θυμὸς τράπετ' ἄλλα νοῆσαι,
μελπομένης περ ὅμως· πᾶσαι δέ οἱ, ἦντιν' ἀθύροι
μολπὴν, οὐκ ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἐφήνδανεν ἐψιάσθαι. 950

ἀλλὰ μεταλλήγεσκειν ἀμήχανος, οὐδέ ποτ' ὅσσε
ἀμφιπόλων μεθ' ὅμιλον ἔχ' ἀτρέμας· ἐς δὲ κελεύθους
τηλόσε παπταίνεσκε, παρακλίνουσα παρειάς.

ἦ θαμὰ δὴ στηθέων ἐάγῃ κέαρ, ὅππότε δυῦπεν
ἦ ποδὸς ἦ ἀνέμοιο παραθρέξαντα δοάσσαι.

αὐτὰρ ὅγ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐελδομένη ἐφάνθη

ὑψόσ' ἀναθρώσκων ἄτε Σείριος Ὠκεανοῖο,

ὃς δὴ τοι καλὸς μὲν ἀρίζηλός τ' ἐσιδέσθαι

ἀντέλλει, μήλοισι δ' ἐν ἄσπετον ἦκεν οἰζύν·

ὥς ἄρα τῇ καλὸς μὲν ἐπήλυθεν εἰσοράασθαι 960

Αἰσονίδης, κάματον δὲ δυσίμερον ὥρσε φασανθεῖς.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

of them meantime as she clapped her wings aloft in the branches uttered the counsels of Hera :

“What a pitiful seer is this, that has not the wit to conceive even what children know, how that no maiden will say a word of sweetness or love to a youth when strangers be near. Begone, sorry prophet, witless one ; on thee neither Cypris nor the gentle Loves breathe in their kindness.”

She spake chiding, and Mopsus smiled to hear the god-sent voice of the bird, and thus addressed them : “Do thou, son of Aeson, pass on to the temple, where thou wilt find the maiden ; and very kind will her greeting be to thee through the prompting of Cypris, who will be thy helpmate in the contest, even as Phineus, Agenor’s son, foretold. But we two, Argus and I, will await thy return, apart in this very spot ; do thou all alone be a suppliant and win her over with prudent words.”

He spake wisely, and both at once gave approval. Nor was Medea’s heart turned to other thoughts, for all her singing, and never a song that she essayed pleased her long in her sport. But in confusion she ever faltered, nor did she keep her eyes resting quietly upon the throng of her handmaids ; but to the paths far off she strained her gaze, turning her face aside. Oft did her heart sink fainting within her bosom whenever she fancied she heard passing by the sound of a footfall or of the wind. But soon he appeared to her longing eyes, striding along loftily, like Sirius coming from ocean, which rises fair and clear to see, but brings unspeakable mischief to flocks ; thus then did Aeson’s son come to her, fair to see, but the sight of him brought love-sick

ἐκ δ' ἄρα οἱ κραδίη στηθέων πέσεν, ὄμματα δ' αὐτως
 ἤχλυσαν· θερμὸν δὲ παρηίδας εἶλεν ἔρευθος.
 γούνατα δ' οὔτ' ὀπίσω οὔτε προπάροιθεν αἰεῖραι
 ἔσθενεν, ἀλλ' ὑπένερθε πάγῃ πόδας. αἱ δ' ἄρα τείως
 ἀμφίπολοι μάλα πᾶσαι ἀπὸ σφείων ἐλίασθεν.
 τῷ δ' ἄνεω καὶ ἄναυδοι ἐφέστασαν ἀλλήλοισιν,
 ἢ δρυσίν, ἢ μακρῇσιν ἐειδόμενοι ἐλάτῃσιν,
 αἶτε παρᾶσσον ἔκηλοι ἐν οὔρεσιν ἐρρίζωνται,
 νηνεμίη· μετὰ δ' αὖτις ὑπὸ ῥιπῆς ἀνέμοιο
 κινύμεναι ὁμάδησαν ἀπείριτον· ὥς ἄρα τώγε
 μέλλον ἄλις φθέγξασθαι ὑπὸ πνοιῇσιν Ἑρωτος.
 γινῶ δέ μιν Αἰσονίδης ἄτῃ ἐνιπεπτηυῖαν
 θευμορίη, καὶ τοῖον ὑποσσαίνων φάτο μῦθον·

970

‘Τίπτε με, παρθενική, τόσον ἄξαι, οἷον εἶντα;
 οὐ τοι ἐγών, οἰοί τε δυσανχέες ἄλλοι ἔασιν
 ἄνδρες, οὐδ' ὅτε περ πάτρη ἐνι ναιετάασκον,
 ἦα πάρος. τῷ μή με λήν ὑπεραῖδεο, κούρη,
 ἢ τι παρεξερέεσθαι, ὃ τοι φίλον, ἢέ τι φάσθαι.
 ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ ἀλλήλοισιν ἰκάνομεν εὐμενέοντες,
 χώρῳ ἐν ἡγαθέῳ, ἵνα τ' οὐ θέμις ἔστ' ἀλιτέσθαι,
 ἀμφαδίην ἀγόρευε καὶ εἴρεο· μηδέ με τερπνοῖς
 φηλώσης ἐπέεσσιν, ἐπεὶ τὸ πρῶτον ὑπέστης
 αὐτοκασιγνήτῃ μενοεικέα φάρμακα δώσειν.
 πρὸς σ' αὐτῆς Ἑκάτης μειλίσσομαι ἠδὲ τοκήων
 καὶ Διός, ὃς ξείνοισι ἰκέτησί τε χεῖρ' ὑπερίσχει·
 ἀμφοτέρων δ', ἰκέτης ξεῖνός τέ τοι ἐνθάδ' ἰκάνω,
 χρεοῖ ἀναγκαίῃ γουνούμενος. οὐ γὰρ ἄνευθεν
 ὑμείων στονόεντος ὑπέρτερος ἔσσομ' ἀέθλου.
 σοὶ δ' ἂν ἐγὼ τίσαιμι χάριν μετόπισθεν ἀρωγῆς,
 ἢ θέμις, ὥς ἐπέοικε διάνδιχα ναιετάοντας,

980

990

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

care. Her heart fell from out her bosom, and a dark mist came over her eyes, and a hot blush covered her cheeks. And she had no strength to lift her knees backwards or forwards, but her feet beneath were rooted to the ground; and meantime all her handmaidens had drawn aside. So they two stood face to face without a word, without a sound, like oaks or lofty pines, which stand quietly side by side on the mountains when the wind is still; then again, when stirred by the breath of the wind, they murmur ceaselessly; so they two were destined to tell out all their tale, stirred by the breath of Love. And Aeson's son saw that she had fallen into some heaven-sent calamity, and with soothing words thus addressed her:

“Why, pray, maiden, dost thou fear me so much, all alone as I am? Never was I one of these idle boasters such as other men are—not even aforetime, when I dwelt in my own country. Wherefore, maiden, be not too much abashed before me, either to enquire whatever thou wilt or to speak thy mind. But since we have met one another with friendly hearts, in a hallowed spot, where it is wrong to sin, speak openly and ask questions, and beguile me not with pleasing words, for at the first thou didst promise thy sister to give me the charms my heart desires. I implore thee by Hecate herself, by thy parents, and by Zeus who holds his guardian hand over strangers and suppliants; I come here to thee both a suppliant and a stranger, bending the knee in my sore need. For without thee and thy sister never shall I prevail in the grievous contest. And to thee will I render thanks hereafter for thy aid, as is right and fitting for men who dwell far off,

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

οὔνομα καὶ καλὸν τεύχων κλέος· ὥς δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι
 ἤρωες κλήσουσιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα νοστήσαντες
 ἡρώων τ' ἄλοχοι καὶ μητέρες, αἵ νύ που ἤδη
 ἡμέας ἡιόνεσσιν ἐφεζόμεναι γοοῦουσιν·
 τάων ἀργαλέας κεν ἀποσκεδάσειας ἀνίας.

δὴ ποτε καὶ Θησῆα κακῶν ὑπελύσατ' ἀέθλων
 παρθενικὴ Μινωῖς εὐφρονέουσ' Ἀριάδνη,
 ἣν ῥά τε Πασιφάη κούρη τέκεν Ἡελίοιο.

ἀλλ' ἡ μὲν καὶ νηός, ἐπεὶ χόλον εὐνασε Μίνως,
 σὺν τῷ ἐφεζομένη πάτρην λίπε· τὴν δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 ἀθάνατοι φίλαντο, μέσῳ δέ οἱ αἰθέρι τέκμαρ
 ἀστερόεις στέφανος, τόντε κλείουσ' Ἀριάδνης,
 πάννυχος οὐρανόισιν ἐλίσσεται εἰδώλοισιν.

ὥς καὶ σοὶ θεόθεν χάρις ἔσσεται, εἴ κε σωΐσης
 τόσσον ἀριστήων ἀνδρῶν στόλον· ἥ γὰρ ἔοικας
 ἐκ μορφῆς ἀγανῆσιν ἐπητείησι κεκάσθαι.

Ὡς φάτο κυδαίνων· ἡ δ' ἐγκλιδὸν ὄσσε βαλοῦσα
 νεκτάρεον μείδησ'· ἐχύθη δέ οἱ ἔνδοθι θυμὸς
 αἴνῳ ἀειρομένης, καὶ ἀνέδρακεν ὄμμασιν ἄντην·
 οὐδ' ἔχεν ὅττι πάροιθεν ἔπος προτιμυθήσαιο,
 ἀλλ' ἄμυδις μενέαινεν ἀολλέα πάντ' ἀγορεύσαι.
 προπρὸ δ' ἀφειδήσασα θυώδεος ἔξελε μίτρης
 φάρμακον· αὐτὰρ ὃ γ' αἶψα χεροῖν ὑπέδεκτο γε-
 γηθώς.

καὶ νύ κέ οἱ καὶ πᾶσαν ἀπὸ στηθέων ἀρύσασα
 ψυχὴν ἐγγυάλιξεν ἀγαιομένη χατέοντι·
 τοῖος ἀπὸ ξανθοῖο καρήατος Αἰσονίδαο
 στράπτειν Ἐρως ἠδείαν ἀπὸ φλόγα· τῆς δ' ἀμαρυγᾶς
 ὀφθαλμῶν ἤρπαζεν· ἰαίνετο δὲ φρένας εἴσω
 τηκομένη, οἷόν τε περὶ ῥοδέησιν ἐέρση
 τήκεται ἡώοισιν ἰαινομένη φαέεσσιν.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

making glorious thy name and fame ; and the rest of the heroes, returning to Hellas, will spread thy renown and so will the heroes' wives and mothers, who now perhaps are sitting on the shore and making moan for us ; their painful affliction thou mightest scatter to the winds. In days past the maiden Ariadne, daughter of Minos, with kindly intent rescued Theseus from grim contests—the maiden whom Pasiphae daughter of Helios bare. But she, when Minos had lulled his wrath to rest, went aboard the ship with him and left her fatherland ; and her even the immortal gods loved, and, as a sign in mid-sky, a crown of stars, which men call Ariadne's crown, rolls along all night among the heavenly constellations. So to thee too shall be thanks from the gods, if thou wilt save so mighty an array of chieftains. For surely from thy lovely form thou art like to excel in gentle courtesy."

Thus he spake, honouring her ; and she cast her eyes down with a smile divinely sweet ; and her soul melted within her, uplifted by his praise, and she gazed upon him face to face ; nor did she know what word to utter first, but was eager to pour out everything at once. And forth from her fragrant girdle ungrudgingly she brought out the charm ; and he at once received it in his hands with joy. And she would even have drawn out all her soul from her breast and given it to him, exulting in his desire ; so wonderfully did love flash forth a sweet flame from the golden head of Aeson's son ; and he captivated her gleaming eyes ; and her heart within grew warm, melting away as the dew melts away round roses when warmed by the morning's light. And now both

ἄμφω δ' ἄλλοτε μέν τε κατ' οὔδεος ὄμματ' ἔρειδον
αἰδόμενοι, ὅτε δ' αὖτις ἐπὶ σφίσι βάλλον ὀπωπίας,
ἱμερόειν φαιδρῆσιν ὑπ' ὀφρύσι μειδιῶντες.

ὧς δὲ δὴ τοίοισι μόλις προσπτύξατο κούρη·

‘Φράζεο νῦν, ὥς κέν τοι ἐγὼ μητίσομ' ἀρωγῇν.

εὖτ' ἂν δὴ μετιόντι πατήρ ἐμὸς ἐγγυαλίξῃ
ἐξ ὄφιος γενύων ὀλοοὺς σπείρασθαι ὀδόντας,
δὴ τότε μέσσην νύκτα διαμμοιρηδὰ φυλάξας,
ἀκαμάτοιο ῥῶῃσι λοεσσάμενος ποταμοῖο,
οἶος ἄνευθ' ἄλλων ἐνὶ φάρεσι κυανέοισιν
βόθρον ὀρύξασθαι περιηγέα· τῷ δ' ἐνὶ θῆλυν
ἄρνειον σφάζειν, καὶ ἀδαίετον ὠμοθετῆσαι,
αὐτῷ πυρκαϊὴν εὖ νηήσας ἐπὶ βόθρῳ.

μουνογενῇ δ' Ἑκάτην Περσηίδα μειλίσσοιο,
λείβων ἐκ δέπας σιμβλήια ἔργα μελισσῶν.
ἔνθα δ' ἐπεὶ κε θεὰν μεμνημένος ἰλάσσηαι,
ἄψ' ἀπὸ πυρκαϊῆς ἀναχάξεο· μηδέ σε δοῦπος
ἡέ ποδῶν ὄρσησι μεταστρεφθῆναι ὀπίσσω,
ἡέ κυνῶν ὑλακῇ, μή πως τὰ ἕκαστα κολούσας
οὐδ' αὐτὸς κατὰ κόσμον ἐοῖς ἐτάροισι πελάσσης.

ἦρι δὲ μυδῆνας τόδε φάρμακον, ἡύτ' ἄλοιφῇ
γυμνωθεὶς φαίδρυνε τεὸν δέμας· ἐν δέ οἱ ἀλκῇ
ἔσσετ' ἀπειρεσίῃ μέγα τε σθένος, οὐδέ κε φαίης
ἀνδράσιν, ἀλλὰ θεοῖσιν ἰσαζέμεν ἀθανάτοισιν.
πρὸς δὲ καὶ αὐτῷ δουρὶ σάκος πεπαλαγμένον ἔστω
καὶ ξίφος· ἐνθ' οὐκ ἂν σε διατμήξειαν ἀκωκαὶ
γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν, οὐδ' ἄσχετος αἰσσοῦσα
φλόξ ὀλοῶν ταύρων· τοίός γε μὲν οὐκ ἐπὶ δηρὸν
ἔσσεαι, ἀλλ' αὐτῆμαρ· ὅμως σύ γε μή ποτ' ἀέθλου
χάζεο· καὶ δέ τοι ἄλλο παρέξ ὑποθήσομ' ὄνειαρ.
αὐτίκ' ἐπὴν κρατεροὺς ζεύξης βόας, ὧκα δὲ πᾶσαν
χερσὶ καὶ ἡγορέῃ στυφελὴν διὰ νειὸν ἀρόσσης,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

were fixing their eyes on the ground abashed, and again were throwing glances at each other, smiling with the light of love beneath their radiant brows. And at last and scarcely then did the maiden greet him :

“ Take heed now, that I may devise help for thee. When at thy coming my father has given thee the deadly teeth from the dragon’s jaws for sowing, then watch for the time when the night is parted in twain, then bathe in the stream of the tireless river, and alone, apart from others, clad in dusky raiment, dig a rounded pit ; and therein slay a ewe, and sacrifice it whole, heaping high the pyre on the very edge of the pit. And propitiate only-begotten Hecate, daughter of Perses, pouring from a goblet the hive-stored labour of bees. And then, when thou hast heedfully sought the grace of the goddess, retreat from the pyre ; and let neither the sound of feet drive thee to turn back, nor the baying of hounds, lest haply thou shouldst maim all the rites and thyself fail to return duly to thy comrades. And at dawn steep this charm in water, strip, and anoint thy body therewith as with oil ; and in it there will be boundless prowess and mighty strength, and thou wilt deem thyself a match not for men but for the immortal gods. And besides, let thy spear and shield and sword be sprinkled. Thereupon the spear-heads of the earthborn men shall not pierce thee, nor the flame of the deadly bulls as it rushes forth resistless. But such thou shalt be not for long, but for that one day ; still never flinch from the contest. And I will tell thee besides of yet another help. As soon as thou hast yoked the strong oxen, and with thy might and thy prowess

οἱ δ' ἤδη κατὰ ὠλκας ἀνασταχύωσι Γίγαντες
 σπειρομένων ὄφις δνοφερὴν ἐπὶ βῶλον ὀδόντων,
 αἶ κεν ὀρινομένους πολέας νειοῖο δοκεύσης,
 λάθρη λᾶαν ἄφες στιβαρώτερον· οἱ δ' ἂν ἐπ' αὐτῷ,
 καρχαλέοι κύνες ὥστε περὶ βρώμης, ὀλέκοιεν
 ἀλλήλους· καὶ δ' αὐτὸς ἐπείγειο δημοτῆτος
 ἰθῦσαι. τὸ δὲ κῶας ἐς Ἑλλάδα τοῖό γ' ἔκητι
 οὔσαι ἐξ Αἴης τηλοῦ ποθι· νίσσεο δ' ἔμπης,
 ἦ φίλον, ἦ τοι ἔαδεν ἀφορμηθέντι νέεσθαι.'

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Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη, καὶ σῖγα ποδῶν πάρος ὅσσε βαλοῦσα
 θεσπέσιον λιανοῖσι παρηίδα δάκρυσι δεῦεν
 μυρομένη, ὃ τ' ἔμελλεν ἀπόπροθι πολλὸν ἐοῖο
 πόντον ἐπιπλάγξεσθαι· ἀνιηρῶ δέ μιν ἄντην
 ἐξαυτίς μύθῳ προσεφώνεεν, εἰλέ τε χειρὸς
 δεξιτερῆς· δὴ γάρ οἱ ἀπ' ὀφθαλμοῦς λίπεν αἰδώς·

Ἰνῶεο δ', ἦν ἄρα δὴ ποθ' ὑπότροπος οἴκαδ'
 ἵκηαι,

οὔνομα Μηδείης· ὥς δ' αὐτ' ἐγὼ ἀμφὶς ἐόντος
 μνήσομαι. εἰπὲ δέ μοι πρόφρων τόδε, πῇ τοι ἔασιν
 δώματα, πῇ νῦν ἔνθεν ὑπεῖρ ἅλα νηὶ περήσεις·
 ἢ νύ που ἀφνειοῦ σχεδὸν ἵξαι Ὀρχομενοῖο,
 ἦε καὶ Αἰαίης νήσου πέλας; εἰπὲ δὲ κούρην,
 ἦντινα τήνδ' ὀνόμηνας ἀριγνώτην γεγαυῖαν
 Πασιφάης, ἣ πατρὸς ὁμόγνιός ἐστιν ἐμεῖο.'

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Ὡς φάτο· τὸν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν ὑπήϊε δάκρυσι
 κούρης

οὔλος Ἔρως, τοῖον δὲ παραβλήδην ἔπος ηὔδα·

Ἐκαὶ λίην οὐ νύκτας οἶομαι, οὐδέ ποτ' ἡμαρ
 σεῦ ἐπιλήσεσθαι, προφυγῶν μόρον, εἰ ἔτεόν γε
 φεύξομαι ἀσκηθῆς ἐς Ἀχαιίδα, μηδέ τιν' ἄλλον
 Αἰήτης προβάλησι κακώτερον ἄμμιν ἄεθλοι·

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THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

hast ploughed all the stubborn fallow, and now along the furrows the Giants are springing up, when the serpent's teeth are sown on the dusky clods, if thou markest them uprising in throngs from the fallow, cast unseen among them a massy stone; and they over it, like ravening hounds over their food, will slay one another; and do thou thyself hasten to rush to the battle-strife, and the fleece thereupon thou shalt bear far away from Aea; nevertheless, depart wherever thou wilt, or thy pleasure takes thee, when thou hast gone hence."

Thus she spake, and cast her eyes to her feet in silence, and her cheek, divinely fair, was wet with warm tears as she sorrowed for that he was about to wander far from her side over the wide sea: and once again she addressed him face to face with mournful words, and took his right hand; for now shame had left her eyes:

"Remember, if haply thou returnest to thy home, Medea's name; and so will I remember thine, though thou be far away. And of thy kindness tell me this, where is thy home, whither wilt thou sail hence in thy ship over the sea; wilt thou come near wealthy Orchomenus, or near the Aeaean isle? And tell me of the maiden, whosoever she be that thou hast named, the far-renowned daughter of Pasiphae, who is kinswoman to my father."

Thus she spake; and over him too, at the tears of the maiden, stole Love the destroyer, and he thus answered her:

"All too surely do I deem that never by night and never by day will I forget thee if I escape death and indeed make my way in safety to the Achaean land, and Aeetes set not before us some other

εἰ δέ τοι ἡμετέρην ἐξίδμεναι εὐαδε πάτρην
 ἐξερέω· μάλα γάρ με καὶ αὐτὸν θυμὸς ἀνώγει.
 ἔστι τις αἰπεινοῖσι περίδρομος οὔρεσι γαῖα,
 πάμπαν ἐύρρηνός τε καὶ εὐβοτος, ἔνθα Προμηθεὺς
 Ἰαπετιονίδης ἀγαθὸν τέκε Δευκαλίωνα,
 ὃς πρῶτος ποίησε πόλεις καὶ ἐδείματο νηοὺς
 ἀθανάτοις, πρῶτος δὲ καὶ ἀνθρώπων βασίλευσεν.
 Αἰμονίην δὲ τήνγε περικτίονες καλέουσιν.
 ἐν δ' αὐτῇ Ἰαωλκός, ἐμὴ πόλις, ἐν δὲ καὶ ἄλλαι
 109
 πολλαὶ ναιετάουσιν, ἵν' οὐδέ περ οὔνομ' ἀκούσαι
 Αἰαίης νήσου· Μινύην γε μὲν ὀρμηθέντα,
 Αἰολίδην Μινύην ἔνθεν φάτις Ὀρχομενοῖο
 δὴ ποτε Καδμείοισιν ὁμούριον ἄστυ πολίσσαι.
 ἀλλὰ τίη τάδε τοι μεταμώνια πάντ' ἀγορεύω,
 ἡμετέρους τε δόμους τηλεκλείτην τ' Ἀριάδνην,
 κούρην Μίνως, τόπερ ἀγλαὸν οὔνομα κείνην
 παρθενικὴν καλέεσκον ἐπήρατον, ἣν μ' ἐρεεῖνεις;
 αἶθε γάρ, ὥς Θησῇ τότε ξυναρέσσατο Μίνως
 110
 ἀμφ' αὐτῆς, ὥς ἄμμι πατὴρ τεὸς ἄρθμιος εἴη.
 Ὡς φάτο, μελιχίοισι καταψήχων ὀάροισιν.
 τῆς δ' ἀλεγεινόταται κραδίην ἐρέθεσκον ἀνῖαι,
 καὶ μιν ἀκηχεμένη ἀδινῶ προσπτύξατο μύθῳ·
 'Ἐλλάδι που τάδε καλὰ, συνημοσύνας ἀλεγύ-
 νειν·

Αἰήτης δ' οὐ τοῖος ἐν ἀνδράσιν, οἷον ἔειπας
 Μίνω Πασιφάης πόσιν ἔμμεναι· οὐδ' Ἀριάδνη
 ἰσοῦμαι· τῷ μήτι φιλοξενίην ἀγόρευε.
 ἀλλ' οἷον τύνη μὲν ἐμεῦ, ὅτ' Ἰωλκὸν ἵκηαι,
 μνώεο· σείο δ' ἐγὼ καὶ ἐμῶν ἀέκητι τοκῇων
 1110
 μνήσομαι. ἔλθοι δ' ἡμιν ἀπόπροθεν ἡέ τις ὄσσα,
 ἡέ τις ἄγγελος ὄρνις, ὅτ' ἐκλελάθοιο ἐμεῖο·
 ἢ αὐτὴν με ταχεῖαι ὑπὲρ πόντοιο φέροιεν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

contest worse than this. And if it pleases thee to know about my fatherland, I will tell it out; for indeed my own heart bids me do that. There is a land encircled by lofty mountains, rich in sheep and in pasture, where Prometheus, son of Iapetus, begat goodly Deucalion, who first founded cities and reared temples to the immortal gods, and first ruled over men. This land the neighbours who dwell around call Haemonia. And in it stands Iolcus, my city, and in it many others, where they have not so much as heard the name of the Aeaeon isle; yet there is a story that Minyas starting thence, Minyas son of Aeolus, built long ago the city of Orchomenus that borders on the Cadmeians. But why do I tell thee all this vain talk, of our home and of Minos' daughter, far-famed Ariadne, by which glorious name they called that lovely maiden of whom thou askest me? Would that, as Minos then was well inclined to Theseus for her sake, so may thy father be joined to us in friendship!"

Thus he spake, soothing her with gentle converse. But pangs most bitter stirred her heart and in grief did she address him with vehement words:

"In Hellas, I ween, this is fair—to pay heed to covenants; but Aeetes is not such a man among men as thou sayest was Pasiphae's husband, Minos; nor can I liken myself to Ariadne; wherefore speak not of guest-love. But only do thou, when thou hast reached Iolcus, remember me, and thee even in my parents' despite, will I remember. And from far off may a rumour come to me or some messenger-bird, when thou forgettest me; or me, even me, may swift blasts catch up and bear over the sea hence to

ἐνθένδ' εἰς Ἴωλκὸν ἀναρπάξασαι ἄλλαι,
ὄφρα σ', ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἐλεγχείας προφέρουσα,
μνήσω ἐμῇ ἰότητι πεφυγμένον. αἶθε γὰρ εἶην
ἀπροφάτως τότε σοῖσιν ἐφέστιος ἐν μεγάροισιν.'

᾽Ως ἄρ' ἔφη, ἔλεεινὰ καταπροχέουσα παρειῶν
δάκρυα· τὴν δ' ὄγε δῆθεν ὑποβλήδην προσέειπεν·
᾽Δαιμονίη, κενεὰς κέν ἔα πλάζεσθαι ἀέλλας,
ὥς δὲ καὶ ἄγγελον ὄρνιν, ἐπεὶ μεταμῶνια βάζεις.
εἰ δέ κεν ἦθεα κεῖνα καὶ Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἵκηαι,
τιμήεσσα γυναιξὶ καὶ ἀνδράσιν αἰδοίη τε
ἔσσεαι· οἱ δέ σε πάγχυ θεὸν ὥς πορσανέουσιν,
οὔνεκα τῶν μὲν παῖδες ὑπότροποι οἴκαδ' ἵκοντο
σῇ βουλῇ, τῶν δ' αὖτε κασίγνητοί τε ἔται τε
καὶ θαλεροὶ κακότητος ἄδην ἐσάωθεν ἀκοῖται.

ἡμέτερον δὲ λέχος θαλάμοις ἐνὶ κουριδίοις
πορσυνέεις· οὐδ' ἄμμε διακρινέει φιλότητος
ἄλλο, πάρος θάνατόν γε μεμορμένον ἀμφικαλύψαι.'

᾽Ως φάτο· τῇ δ' ἔντοσθε κατείβετο θυμὸς ἀκουῇ,
ἔμπης δ' ἔργ' αἰδέηλα κατερρίγησεν ἰδέσθαι.
σχετλίη· οὐ μὲν δηρὸν ἀπαρνήσεσθαι ἔμελλεν
Ἑλλάδα ναιετάειν. ὥς γὰρ τόδε μήδετο Ἥρη,
ὄφρα κακὸν Πελίῃ ἱερὴν ἐς Ἴωλκὸν ἵκοιτο
Αἰαίῃ Μήδεια, λιποῦσ' ἀπο πατρίδα γαῖαν.

Ἦδη δ' ἀμφίπολοι μὲν ὀπιπεύουσαι ἄπωθεν
σιγῇ ἀνιάζουσιν· ἐδεύετο δ' ἡματος ὥρη
ἄψ' οἰκόνδε νέεσθαι ἐὼν μετὰ μητέρα κούρην.
ἡ δ' οὐπω κομιδῆς μιμνήσκετο, τέρπετο γάρ οἱ
θυμὸς ὁμῶς μορφῇ τε καὶ αἰμυλίοισι λόγοισιν,
εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης πεφυλαγμένος ὀψέ περ ἡὔδα·
᾽Ωρη ἀποβλώσκειν, μὴ πρὶν φάος ἡελίοιο
δύη ὑποφθάμενον, καὶ τις τὰ ἕκαστα νοήσῃ
ὀθνείων· αὐτίς δ' ἀβολήσομεν ἐνθαδ' ἰόντες.'

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Iolcus, that so I may cast reproaches in thy face and remind thee that it was by my good will thou didst escape. May I then be seated in thy halls, an unexpected guest !”

Thus she spake with piteous tears falling down her cheeks, and to her Jason replied : “ Let the empty blasts wander at will, lady, and the messenger-bird, for vain is thy talk. But if thou comest to those abodes and to the land of Hellas, honoured and revered shalt thou be by women and men ; and they shall worship thee even as a goddess, for that by thy counsel their sons came home again, their brothers and kinsmen and stalwart husbands were saved from calamity. And in our bridal chamber shalt thou prepare our couch ; and nothing shall come between our love till the doom of death fold us round.”

Thus he spake ; and her soul melted within her to hear his words ; nevertheless she shuddered to behold the deeds of destruction to come. Poor wretch ! Not long was she destined to refuse a home in Hellas. For thus Hera devised it, that Aææan Medea might come to Iolcus for a bane to Pelias, forsaking her native land.

And now her handmaids, glancing at them from a distance, were grieving in silence ; and the time of day required that the maiden should return home to her mother's side. But she thought not yet of departing, for her soul delighted both in his beauty and in his winsome words, but Aeson's son took heed, and spake at last, though late : “ It is time to depart, lest the sunlight sink before we know it, and some stranger notice all ; but again will we come and meet here.”

Ὡς τῶγ' ἀλλήλων ἀγανοῖς ἐπὶ τόσσον ἔπεσσαν
 πείρηθεν· μετὰ δ' αὖτε διέτμαγεν. ἦτοι Ἴησων
 εἰς ἐτάρους καὶ νῆα κεχαρμένος ὦρτο νέεσθαι·
 ἢ δὲ μετ' ἀμφιπόλους· αἱ δὲ σχεδὸν ἀντεβόλησαν
 πᾶσαι ὁμοῦ· τὰς δ' οὔτι περιπλομένας ἐνόησεν. 11
 Ψυχὴ γὰρ νεφέεσσι μεταχρονίη πεπότητο.
 αὐτομάτοις δὲ πόδεσσι θοῆς ἐπεβήσατ' ἀπήνης,
 καὶ ῥ' ἐτέρη μὲν χειρὶ λάβ' ἠνία, τῇ δ' ἄρ' ἱμάσθλην
 δαιδαλέην, οὐρῆας ἐλαννέμεν· οἱ δὲ πόλινδε
 θύνον ἐπειγόμενοι ποτὶ δώματα. τὴν δ' ἄρ' ἰοῦσαν
 Χαλκιοῖα περὶ παισὶν ἀκηχεμένη ἐρέεινεν·
 ἢ δὲ παλιντροπίησιν ἀμήχανος οὔτε τι μύθων
 ἔκλυεν, οὔτ' αὐδῆσαι ἀνειρομένη λελίητο.
 ἶξε δ' ἐπὶ χθαμαλῷ σφέλαϊ κλιντῆρος ἔνερθεν
 λέχρις ἐρεισαμένη λαιῇ ἐπὶ χειρὶ παρειήν· 11
 ὑγρὰ δ' ἐνὶ βλεφάροις ἔχεν ὄμματα, πορφύρουσα
 οἶον ἐῖ κακὸν ἔργον ἐπιξυνώσατο βουλῇ.

Αἰσονίδης δ' ὅτε δὴ ἐτάροις ἐξαῦτις ἔμικτο
 ἐν χώρῃ, ὅθι τούσγε καταπρολιπὼν ἐλιάσθη,
 ὦρτ' ἰέναι σὺν τοῖσι, πιφανσκόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα,
 ἠρώων ἐς ὄμιλον· ὁμοῦ δ' ἐπὶ νῆα πέλασσαν.
 οἱ δὲ μιν ἀμφαγάπαζον, ὅπως ἴδον, ἐκ τ' ἐρέοντο.
 αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖς πάντεσσι μετέννεπε δῆνεα κούρης,
 δεῖξέ τε φάρμακον αἶνόν· ὁ δ' οἶόθεν οἶος ἐταίρων
 Ἰδας ἦστ' ἀπάνευθε δακῶν χόλον· οἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλοι 11
 γηθόοσυνοι τῆμος μὲν, ἐπεὶ κνέφας ἔργαθε νυκτός,
 εὐκηλοὶ ἐμέλοντο περὶ σφίσιν. αὐτὰρ ἄμ' ἠοὶ
 πέμπον ἐς Αἰήτην ἰέναι σπόρον αἰτήσοντας
 ἄνδρε δύω, πρὸ μὲν αὐτὸν ἀργίφιλον Τελαμῶνα,
 σὺν δὲ καὶ Αἰθαλίδην, νῆα κλυτὸν Ἑρμείαιο.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

So did they two make trial of one another thus far with gentle words; and thereafter parted. Jason hastened to return in joyous mood to his comrades and the ship, she to her handmaids; and they all together came near to meet her, but she marked them not at all as they thronged around. For her soul had soared aloft amid the clouds. And her feet of their own accord mounted the swift chariot, and with one hand she took the reins, and with the other the whip of cunning workmanship, to drive the mules; and they rushed hasting to the city and the palace. And when she was come Chalciope in grief for her sons questioned her; but Medea, distraught by swiftly-changing thoughts, neither heard her words nor was eager to speak in answer to her questions. But she sat upon a low stool at the foot of her couch, bending down, her cheek leaning on her left hand, and her eyes were wet with tears as she pondered what an evil deed she had taken part in by her counsels.

Now when Aeson's son had joined his comrades again in the spot where he had left them when he departed, he set out to go with them, telling them all the story, to the gathering of the heroes; and together they approached the ship. And when they saw Jason they embraced him and questioned him. And he told to all the counsels of the maiden and showed the dread charm; but Idas alone of his comrades sat apart biting down his wrath; and the rest joyous in heart, at the hour when the darkness of night stayed them, peacefully took thought for themselves. But at daybreak they sent two men to go to Aeetes and ask for the seed, first Telamon himself, dear to Ares, and with him Aethalides, Hermes' famous

βὰν δ' ἴμεν, οὐδ' ἀλίωσαν ὁδόν· πόρε δέ σφιν ἰοῦσιν
 κρείων Αἰήτης χαλεπούς ἐς ἄεθλον ὁδόντας
 Ἄονιοιο δράκοντος, ὃν Ὀγυγίῃ ἐνὶ Θήβῃ
 Κάδμος, ὅτ' Εὐρώπην διζήμενος εἰσαφίκανεν,
 πέφνεν Ἀρητιάδι κρήνῃ ἐπίουρον ἔοντα·
 ἔνθα καὶ ἐννάσθη πομπῇ βοός, ἣν οἱ Ἀπόλλων
 ὥπασε μαντοσύνησι προηγήμεραν ὁδοῖο.
 τοὺς δέ θεὰ Τριτωνὶς ὑπὲκ γενύων ἐλάσασα
 Αἰήτῃ πόρε δῶρον ὁμῶς αὐτῷ τε φονῆι.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν Ἀονίοισιν ἐνισπείρας πεδίοισιν
 Κάδμος Ἀγηνορίδης γαιηγενῇ εἶσατο λαόν,
 Ἄρεος ἀμώοντος ὅσοι ὑπὸ δουρὶ λίποντο·
 τοὺς δέ τότε Αἰήτης ἔπορεν μετὰ νῆα φέρεσθαι
 προφρονέως, ἐπεὶ οὐ μιν οἴσσατο πείρατ' ἀέθλου
 ἐξανύσειν, εἰ καὶ περ ἐπὶ ζυγὰ βουσὶ βάλοιτο.

Ἡέλιος μὲν ἄπωθεν ἐρεμνὴν δύνετο γαίαν
 ἐσπέριος, νεάτας ὑπὲρ ἄκριας Αἰθιοπῶν·
 Νύξ δ' ἵπποισιν ἔβαλλεν ἐπὶ ζυγά· τοὶ δὲ χαμεύνας
 ἔντυον ἥρωες παρὰ πείσμασιν. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
 αὐτίκ' ἐπεὶ ῥ' Ἑλίκης εὐφεγγέος ἀστέρες Ἄρκτου
 ἔκλιθεν, οὐρανόθεν δὲ πανεύκηλος γένετ' αἰθήρ,
 βῆ ῥ' ἐς ἐρημαίην, κλωπήμιος ἥυτε τις φῶρ,
 σὺν πᾶσιν χρήεσσι· πρὸ γάρ τ' ἀλέγυνεν ἕκαστα
 ἡμάτιος· θῆλυν μὲν οἶν γάλα τ' ἔκτοθι ποίμνης
 Ἄργος ἰὼν ἤνεικε· τὰ δ' ἐξ αὐτῆς ἔλε νηός.
 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ ἶδε χῶρον, ὅτις πάτου ἔκτοθεν ἦεν
 ἀνθρώπων, καθαρῇσιν ὑπεύδιος εἰαμενῆσιν,
 ἔνθ' ἦτοι πᾶμπρωτα λοέσσατο μὲν ποταμοῖο
 εὐαγέως θείοιο τέρεν δέμας· ἀμφὶ δὲ φᾶρος
 ἔσσατο κυάνεον, τό ρά οἱ πάρος ἐγγυάλιξεν
 Λημνιάς Ὑψιπύλη, ἀδινῆς μνημήμιον εὐνῆς.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

son. So they went and made no vain journey ; but when they came, lordly Aeetes gave them for the contest the fell teeth of the Aonian dragon which Cadmus found in Ogygian Thebes when he came seeking for Europa and there slew—the warder of the spring of Ares. There he settled by the guidance of the heifer whom Apollo by his prophetic word granted him to lead him on his way. But the teeth the Tritonian goddess tore away from the dragon's jaws and bestowed as a gift upon Aeetes and the slayer. And Agenor's son, Cadmus, sowed them on the Aonian plains and founded an earthborn people of all who were left from the spear when Ares did the reaping ; and the teeth Aeetes then readily gave to be borne to the ship, for he deemed not that Jason would bring the contest to an end, even though he should cast the yoke upon the oxen.

Far away in the west the sun was sailing beneath the dark earth, beyond the furthest hills of the Aethiopians ; and Night was laying the yoke upon her steeds ; and the heroes were preparing their beds by the hawsers. But Jason, as soon as the stars of Helice, the bright-gleaming bear, had set, and the air had all grown still under heaven, went to a desert spot, like some stealthy thief, with all that was needful ; for beforehand in the daytime had he taken thought for everything ; and Argus came bringing a ewe and milk from the flock ; and them he took from the ship. But when the hero saw a place which was far away from the tread of men, in a clear meadow beneath the open sky, there first of all he bathed his tender body reverently in the sacred river ; and round him he placed a dark robe, which Hypsipyle of Lemnos had given him aforetime, a memorial of many

πήχυιον δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα πέδῳ ἐνὶ βόθρον ὀρύξας
 νήησε σχίζας, ἐπὶ δ' ἀρνειοῦ τάμε λαιμόν,
 αὐτόν τ' εὖ καθύπερθε τανύσσατο· δαῖε δὲ φिटροὺς
 πῦρ ὑπένερθεν ἰείς, ἐπὶ δὲ μιγάδας χέε λοιβάς, 121
 Βριμῶ κικλήσκων Ἑκάτην ἐπαρωγὸν ἀέθλων.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἀγκαλέσας πάλιν ἔστιχεν· ἡ δ' αἶουσα
 κευθμῶν ἐξ ὑπάτων δεινὴ θεὸς ἀντεβόλησεν
 ἱροῖς Αἰσονίδαο· πέριξ δέ μιν ἔστεφάνωντο
 σμερδαλέοι δρυῖνοισι μετὰ πτόρθοισι δράκοντες·
 στράπτε δ' ἀπειρέσιον δαΐδων σέλας· ἀμφὶ δὲ τήνγχε
 ὀξεῖη ὑλακῇ χθόνιοι κύνες ἐφθέγγοντο.
 πίσεια δ' ἔτρεμε πάντα κατὰ στίβον· αἱ δ' ὀλόλυξαν
 νύμφαι ἐλειονόμοι ποταμηίδες, αἱ περὶ κείνην 122
 Φάσιδος εἵαμενὴν Ἀμαραντίου εἰλίσσονται.
 Αἰσονίδην δ' ἦτοι μὲν ἔλεν δέος, ἀλλὰ μιν οὐδ' ὥς
 ἐντροπαλιζόμενον πόδες ἔκφερον, ὅφρ' ἐτάροισιν
 μίκτο κιών· ἦδη δὲ φόως νιφόμεντος ὑπερθεν
 Καυκάσου ἠριγενῆς Ἡὼς βάλεν ἀντέλλουσα.

Καὶ τότε ἄρ' Αἰήτης περὶ μὲν στήθεσσιν ἔεστο
 θώρηκα στάδιον, τὸν οἱ πόρεν ἐξεναρίζας
 σφωιτέραις Φλεγραῖον Ἄρης ὑπὸ χερσὶ Μίμαντα·
 χρυσεῖήν δ' ἐπὶ κρατὶ κόρυν θέτο τετραφάληρον,
 λαμπομένην οἶόν τε περίτροχον ἔπλετο φέγγος 123
 ἡελίου, ὅτε πρῶτον ἀνέρχεται Ὠκεανοῖο.
 ἂν δὲ πολύρρινον νώμα σάκος, ἂν δὲ καὶ ἔγχος
 δεινόν, ἀμαιμάκετον· τὸ μὲν οὐδέ τις ἄλλος ὑπέστη
 ἀνδρῶν ἠρώων, ὅτε κάλλιπον Ἡρακλῆα
 τῆλε παρέξ, ὃ κεν οἶος ἐναντίβιον πολέμιζεν.
 τῷ δὲ καὶ ὠκυνόδων ἵππων εὐπηγέα δίφρον
 ἔσχε πέλας Φαέθων ἐπιβήμεναι· ἂν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς
 βήσατο, ῥυτῆρας δὲ χεροῖν ἔχεν· ἐκ δὲ πόληος
 ἤλασεν εὐρεΐαν κατ' ἀμαξιτόν, ὥς κεν ἀέθλω

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

a loving embrace. Then he dug a pit in the ground of a cubit's depth and heaped up billets of wood, and over it he cut the throat of the sheep, and duly placed the carcase above; and he kindled the logs placing fire beneath, and poured over them mingled libations, calling on Hecate Brimo to aid him in the contests. And when he had called on her he drew back; and she heard him, the dread goddess, from the uttermost depths and came to the sacrifice of Aeson's son; and round her horrible serpents twined themselves among the oak boughs; and there was a gleam of countless torches; and sharply howled around her the hounds of hell. All the meadows trembled at her step; and the nymphs that haunt the marsh and the river shrieked, all who dance round that mead of Amarantian Phasis. And fear seized Aeson's son, but not even so did he turn round as his feet bore him forth, till he came back to his comrades; and now early dawn arose and shed her light above snowy Caucasus.

Then Aetes arrayed his breast in the stiff corslet which Ares gave him when he had slain Phlegraean Mimas with his own hands; and upon his head he placed a golden helmet with four plumes, gleaming like the sun's round light when he first rises from Ocean. And he wielded his shield of many hides, and his spear, terrible, resistless; none of the heroes could have withstood its shock now that they had left behind Heracles far away, who alone could have met it in battle. For the king his well-fashioned chariot of swift steeds was held near at hand by Phaëthon, for him to mount; and he mounted, and held the reins in his hands. Then from the city he drove along the broad highway, that

παρσταίη· σὺν δέ σφιν ἀπείριτος ἔσσυτο λαός.
οἶος δ' Ἴσθμιον εἴσι Ποσειδάων ἐς ἀγῶνα
ἄρμασιν ἐμβεβαώς, ἥ Ταίναρον, ἥ ὄγε Λέρνης
ὔδωρ, ἥε κατ' ἄλσος Ὑαντίου Ὀγχηστοῖο,
καί τε Καλαύρειαν μετὰ δῆθ' ἅμα νίσσεται ἵπποις,
πέτρην θ' Αἰμονίην, ἥ δενδρήεντα Γεραιστόν·
τοῖος ἄρ' Αἰήτης Κόλχων ἀγὸς ἦεν ιδέσθαι.

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Τόφρα δὲ Μηδείης ὑποθημοσύνησιν Ἰήσων
φάρμακα μυδῆνας ἡμὲν σάκος ἀμφεπάλυνεν
ἡδὲ δόρυ βριαρόν, περὶ δὲ ξίφος· ἀμφὶ δ' ἑταῖροι
πείρησαν τευχέων βεβηγμένοι, οὐδ' ἐδύναντο
κείμενο δόρυ γνάμψαι τυτθόν γέ περ, ἀλλὰ μάλ' αὖ-

τως

125

ἀαγὲς κρατερῇσιν ἐνεσκλήκει παλάμησιν.
αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖς ἄμοτον κοτέων Ἀφαρήιος Ἴδας
κόψε παρ' οὐρίαχον μεγάλῳ ξίφει· ἄλτο δ' ἀκωκὴ
ῥαιστήρ ἄκμονος ὥστε, παλιντυπές· οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν
γηθόσυνοι ἥρωες ἐπ' ἐλπωρῇσιν ἀέθλου.

καὶ δ' αὐτὸς μετέπειτα παλύνετο· δῦ δέ μιν ἀλκὴ
σμερδαλέῃ ἄφατός τε καὶ ἄτρομος· αἱ δ' ἐκάτερθεν
χεῖρες ἐπερρώσαντο περὶ σθένει σφριγώωσαι.

ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀρήιος ἵππος ἐελδόμενος πολέμοιο
σκαρθμῷ ἐπιχρεμέθων κρούει πέδον, αὐτὰρ ὕπερθεν
κυδιόων ὀρθοῖσιν ἐπ' οὐασιν αὐχέν' αἰερεῖ·
τοῖος ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης ἐπαγαίετο κύρτεϊ γνίων.

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πολλὰ δ' ἄρ' ἐνθα καὶ ἐνθα μετάρσιον ἵχνος ἔπαλ-
λεν,

ἄσπίδα χαλκείην μελίην τ' ἐν χερσὶ τινάσσω.
φαίης κε ζοφεροῖο κατ' αἰθέρος αἰσσουσαν
χειμερίην στεροπὴν θαμινὸν μεταπαιφάσσεσθαι
ἐκ νεφέων, ὅτ' ἔπειτα μελάντατον ὄμβρον ἄγωνται.
καὶ τότε ἔπειτ' οὐ δηρὸν ἔτι σχήσεσθαι ἀέθλων

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

he might be present at the contest ; and with him a countless multitude rushed forth. And as Poseidon rides, mounted in his chariot, to the Isthmian contest or to Taenarus, or to Lerna's water, or through the grove of Hyantian Onchestus, and thereafter passes even to Calauria with his steeds, and the Haemonian rock, or well-wooded Geraestus ; even so was Aeetes, lord of the Colchians, to behold.

7 Meanwhile, prompted by Medea, Jason steeped the charm in water and sprinkled with it his shield and sturdy spear, and sword ; and his comrades round him made proof of his weapons with might and main, but could not bend that spear even a little, but it remained firm in their stalwart hands unbroken as before. But in furious rage with them Idas, Aphareus' son, with his great sword hewed at the spear near the butt, and the edge leapt back repelled by the shock, like a hammer from the anvil ; and the heroes shouted with joy for their hope in the contest. And then he sprinkled his body, and terrible prowess entered into him, unspeakable, dauntless ; and his hands on both sides thrilled vigorously as they swelled with strength. And as when a warlike steed eager for the fight neighs and beats the ground with his hoof, while rejoicing he lifts his neck on high with ears erect ; in such wise did Aeson's son rejoice in the strength of his limbs. And often hither and thither did he leap high in air tossing in his hands his shield of bronze and ashen spear. Thou wouldst say that wintry lightning flashing from the gloomy sky kept on darting forth from the clouds what time they bring with them their blackest rainstorm. Not long after that were the heroes to hold back from the contests ; but sitting in rows on

μέλλον· ἀτὰρ κληῖσιν ἐπισχερὼ ἰδρυθέντες
ρίμφα μάλ' ἐς πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἠπείγοντο.
τόσσον δὲ προτέρω πέλεν ἄστεος ἀντιπέρηθεν,
ὅσσον τ' ἐκ βαλβίδος ἐπήβολος ἄρματι νύσσα
γίγνεται, ὅππότε' ἄεθλα καταφθιμένοιο ἄνακτος
κηδεμόνες πεζοῖσι καὶ ἵππῃεσσι τίθενται.
τέτμον δ' Αἰήτην τε καὶ ἄλλων ἔθνεα Κόλχων,
τοὺς μὲν Καυκασίοισιν ἐφεσταότας σκοπέλοισιν,
τὸν δ' αὐτοῦ παρὰ χεῖλος ἐλίσσόμενον ποταμοῖο.

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Αἰσονίδης δ', ὅτε δὴ πρυμνήσια δῆσαν ἐταῖροι,
δή ῥα τότε ξὺν δουρὶ καὶ ἀσπίδι βαῖν' ἐς ἄεθλον,
νῆος ἀποπροθορών· ἄμυδις δ' ἔλε παμφανόωσαν
χαλκείην πῆληκα θοῶν ἔμπλειον ὁδόντων
καὶ ξίφος ἀμφ' ὤμοις, γυμνὸς δέμας, ἄλλα μὲν Ἀρεῖ
εἵκελος, ἄλλα δέ που χρυσαόρῳ Ἀπόλλωνι.
παπτήνας δ' ἀνὰ νειὸν ἶδε ζυγὰ χάλκεα ταύρων
αὐτόγυόν τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς στιβαροῦ ἀδάμαντος ἄροτρον.
χρίμψε δ' ἔπειτα κιών, παρὰ δ' ὄβριμον ἐγχος ἔ-
πηξεν

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ὀρθὸν ἐπ' οὐριάχῳ, κυνέην δ' ἀποκάτθετ' ἐρείσας.
βῆ δ' αὐτῇ προτέρωσε σὺν ἀσπίδι νήριτα ταύρων
ἵχνια μαστεύων· οἱ δ' ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο
κευθμῶνος χθονίου, ἵνα τέ σφισιν ἔσκε βόαυλα
καρτερὰ λιγνυόεντι πέριξ εἰλυμένα καπνῶ,
ἄμφω ὁμοῦ προγένοντο πυρὸς σέλας ἀμπνέοντες.
ἔδδεισαν δ' ἥρωες, ὅπως ἴδον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τούσγε,
εὖ διαβάς, ἐπιόντας, ἅτε σπιλὰς εἰν ἀλὶ πέτρη
μῖμνει ἀπειρεσίῃσι δονεύμενα κύματ' ἀέλλαις.
πρόσθε δέ οἱ σάκος ἔσχεν ἐναντίον· οἱ δέ μιν ἄμφω
μυκηθμῷ κρατεροῖσιν ἐνέπληξαν κεράεσσιν·
οὐδ' ἄρα μιν τυτθὸν περ ἀνώχλισαν ἀντιόωντες.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ τρητοῖσιν ἐύρρινοι χοάνοισιν

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THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

their benches they sped swiftly on to the plain of Ares. And it lay in front of them on the opposite side of the city, as far off as is the turning-post that a chariot must reach from the starting-point, when the kinsmen of a dead king appoint funeral games for footmen and horsemen. And they found Aeetes and the tribes of the Colchians; these were stationed on the Caucasian heights, but the king by the winding brink of the river.

Now Aeson's son, as soon as his comrades had made the hawsers fast, leapt from the ship, and with spear and shield came forth to the contest; and at the same time he took the gleaming helmet of bronze filled with sharp teeth, and his sword girt round his shoulders, his body stripped, in somewise resembling Ares and in somewise Apollo of the golden sword. And gazing over the field he saw the bulls' yoke of bronze and near it the plough, all of one piece, of stubborn adamant. Then he came near, and fixed his sturdy spear upright on its butt, and taking his helmet off leant it against the spear. And he went forward with shield alone to examine the countless tracks of the bulls, and they from some unseen lair beneath the earth, where was their strong standing, wrapt in murky smoke, both rushed out together, breathing forth flaming fire. And sore afraid were the heroes at the sight. But Jason, setting wide his feet, withstood their onset, as in the sea a rocky reef withstands the waves tossed by the countless blasts. Then in front of him he held his shield; and both the bulls with loud bellowing attacked him with their mighty horns; nor did they stir him a jot by their onset. And as when through the holes of the furnace the armourers' bellows anon

φῦσαι χαλκῆων ὅτε μέν τ' ἀναμαρμαίρουσιν,
 πῦρ ὁλοὸν πιμπρᾶσαι, ὅτ' αὖ λήγουσιν αὐτμῆς,
 δεινὸς δ' ἐξ αὐτοῦ πέλεται βρόμος, ὅππότε ἄϊξη
 νειόθεν· ὥς ἄρα τώγε θοὴν φλόγα φυσιῶντες
 ἐκ στομάτων ὁμάδεν, τὸν δ' ἄμφεπε δῆιον αἶθος
 βάλλον ἅτε στεροπή· κούρης δέ ἐ φάρμακ' ἔρυτο.
 καί ῥ' ὅγε δεξιτεροῖο βοὸς κέρας ἄκρον ἐρύσσας
 εἶλκεν ἐπικρατέως παντὶ σθένει, ὅφρα πελάσση
 ζεύγλη χαλκείη, τὸν δ' ἐν χθονὶ κάββαλεν ὀκλάξ,
 ῥίμφα ποδὶ κρούσας πόδα χάλκεον. ὥς δὲ καὶ
 ἄλλον

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σφῆλεν γνῦξ ἐπιόντα, μὴ βεβολημένον ὀρμῇ.
 εὐρὺ δ' ἀποπροβαλὼν χαμάδις σάκος, ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 τῇ καὶ τῇ βεβαῶς ἄμφω ἔχε πεπτηῶτας
 γούνασιν ἐν προτέροισι, διὰ φλογὸς εἶθ' ἄρ
 ἔλυσθείς.

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θαύμασε δ' Αἰήτης σθένος ἀνέρος. οἱ δ' ἄρα τείως
 Τυνδαρίδαι—δὴ γάρ σφι πάλαι προπεφραδμένον
 ἦεν—

ἀγχίμολον ζυγά οἱ πεδόθεν δόσαν ἀμφιβαλέσθαι.
 αὐτὰρ ὁ εὖ ἐνέδησε λόφους· μεσσηγὺ δ' αἰείρας
 χάλκεον ἱστοβοῆα, θοῇ συνάρασσε κορώνη
 ζεύγληθεν. καὶ τὼ μὲν ὑπὲκ πυρὸς ἄψ' ἐπὶ νῆα
 χαζέσθην. ὁ δ' ἄρ' αὐτὶς ἐλὼν σάκος ἔνθετο νώτῳ
 ἐξόπιθεν, καὶ γέντο θοῶν ἔμπλειον ὀδόντων
 πήληκα βριαρὴν δόρυ τ' ἄσχετον, ᾧ ῥ' ὑπὸ
 μέσσας

132

ἐργατίνης ὥς τίς τε Πελασγίδι νύσσειν ἀκαίνῃ
 οὐτάζων λαγόνας· μάλα δ' ἔμπεδον εὖ ἀραρυῖαν
 τυκτὴν ἐξ ἀδάμαντος ἐπιθύνεσκειν ἐχέτλην.

Οἱ δ' εἴως μὲν δὴ περιώσια θυμαίνεσκον,
 λάβρον ἐπιπνέοντε πυρὸς σέλας· ὦρτο δ' αὐτμῇ

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

gleam brightly, kindling the ravening flame, and anon cease from blowing, and a terrible roar rises from the fire when it darts up from below; so the bulls roared, breathing forth swift flame from their mouths, while the consuming heat played round him, smiting like lightning; but the maiden's charms protected him. Then grasping the tip of the horn of the right-hand bull, he dragged it mightily with all his strength to bring it near the yoke of bronze, and forced it down on to its knees, suddenly striking with his foot the foot of bronze. So also he threw the other bull on to its knees as it rushed upon him, and smote it down with one blow. And throwing to the ground his broad shield, he held them both down where they had fallen on their fore-knees, as he strode from side to side, now here, now there, and rushed swiftly through the flame. But Aetes marvelled at the hero's might. And meantime the sons of Tyndareus—for long since had it been thus ordained for them—near at hand gave him the yoke from the ground to cast round them. Then tightly did he bind their necks; and lifting the pole of bronze between them, he fastened it to the yoke by its golden tip. So the twin heroes started back from the fire to the ship. But Jason took up again his shield and cast it on his back behind him, and grasped the strong helmet filled with sharp teeth, and his resistless spear, wherewith, like some ploughman with a Pelasgian goad, he pricked the bulls beneath, striking their flanks; and very firmly did he guide the well fitted plough handle, fashioned of adamant.

The bulls meantime raged exceedingly, breathing forth furious flame of fire; and their breath rose

ἤυτε βυκτάων ἀνέμων βρόμος, οὔστε μάλιστα
 δειδιότες μέγα λαῖφος ἀλίπλοοι ἐστείλαντο.
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 δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα κελευόμενοι ὑπὸ δουρὶ
 ἦσαν· ὀκριόεσσα δ' ἐρείκετο νειὸς ὀπίσσω,
 σχιζομένη ταύρων τε βίῃ κρατερῶ τ' ἀροτῆρι.
 δεινὸν δ' ἐσμαράγευν ἄμυδις κατὰ ὦλκας ἀρότρου
 βῶλακες ἀγνύμεναι ἀνδραχθῆες· εἶπετο δ' αὐτὸς
 λαῖον ἐπὶ στιβαρῶ πίεσας ποδί· τῆλε δ' ἐοῖο
 βάλλεν ἀρηρομένην αἰεὶ κατὰ βῶλον ὀδόντας
 ἐντροπαλιζόμενος, μή οἱ πάρος ἀντιάσειεν
 γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν ὅλοος στάχυσ· οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἐπιπρὸ
 χαλκείης χηλῆσιν ἐρειδόμενοι πονέοντο.

Ἦμος δὲ τρίτατον λάχος ἤματος ἀνομένιοι
 134
 λείπεται ἐξ ἡοῦς, καλέουσι δὲ κεκμηῶτες
 ἐργατῖναι γλυκερόν σφιν ἄφαρ βουλυτὸν ἰκέσθαι,
 τῆμος ἀρήροτο νειὸς ὑπ' ἀκαμάτῳ ἀροτῆρι,
 τετράγνός περ ἐοῦσα· βοῶν τ' ἀπελύετ' ἄροτρα.
 καὶ τοὺς μὲν πεδίονδε διεπτοίησε φέβεσθαι·
 αὐτὰρ ὁ ἄψ' ἐπὶ νῆα πάλιν κίεν, ὅφρ' ἔτι κεινὰς
 γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν ἴδεν αὔλακας· ἀμφὶ δ' ἐταῖροι
 θάρσυνον μύθοισιν· ὁ δ' ἐκ ποταμοῖο ῥοάων
 αὐτῇ ἀφυσσάμενος κυνέῃ σβέσεν ὕδατι δίψαν·
 γνάμψε δὲ γούνατ' ἐλαφρά, μέγαν δ' ἐμπλήσατο
 θυμὸν

1350
 ἀλκῆς, μαιμώνων συὶ εἵκελος, ὅς ῥά τ' ὀδόντας
 θήγει θηρευτῆσιν ἐπ' ἀνδράσιν, ἀμφὶ δὲ πολλὸς
 ἀφρὸς ἀπὸ στόματος χαμάδις ῥεῖ¹ χωόμενιο.
 οἱ δ' ἤδη κατὰ πᾶσαν ἀνασταχύεσκον ἄρουραν
 γηγενέες· φρίξεν δὲ περὶ στιβαροῖς σακέεσσιν
 δούρασί τ' ἀμφιγύοις κορύθεσσί τε λαμπομένησιν
 Ἄρης τέμενος φθισιμβρότου· ἵκετο δ' αἴγλη

¹ ῥεῖ Samuelsson : ῥέε MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

up like the roar of blustering winds, in fear of which above all seafaring men furl their large sail. But not long after that they moved on at the bidding of the spear; and behind them the rugged fallow was broken up, cloven by the might of the bulls and the sturdy ploughman. Then terribly groaned the clods withal along the furrows of the plough as they were rent, each a man's burden; and Jason followed, pressing down the ploughshare with firm foot; and far from him he ever sowed the teeth along the clods as each was ploughed, turning his head back for fear lest the deadly crop of earthborn men should rise against him first; and the bulls toiled onwards treading with their hoofs of bronze.

But when the third part of the day was still left as it wanes from dawn, and wearied labourers call for the sweet hour of unyoking to come to them straightway, then the fallow was ploughed by the tireless ploughman, four plough-gates though it was; and he loosed the plough from the oxen. Then he scared in flight towards the plain; but he went back again to the ship, while he still saw the furrows free of the earthborn men. And all round his comrades heartened him with their shouts. And in the helmet he drew from the river's stream and quenched his thirst with the water. Then he bent his knees till they grew supple, and filled his mighty heart with courage, raging like a boar, when it sharpens its teeth against the hunters, while from its wrathful mouth plenteous foam drips to the ground. By now the earthborn men were springing up over all the field; and the plot of Ares, the death-dealer, bristled with sturdy shields and

νειόθεν Οὐλυμπόνδε δι' ἡέρος ἀστράπτουτα.
 ὥς δ' ὀπότη' ἐς γαίαν πολέος νιφετοῖο πεσόντος
 ἄψ' ἀπὸ χειμερίας νεφέλας ἐκέδασσαν ἄελλαι
 λυγαίη ὑπὸ νυκτί, τὰ δ' ἀθρόα πάντ' ἐφάνθη
 τείρεα λαμπετόωντα διὰ κνέφας· ὥς ἄρα τοίγε
 λάμπουν ἀναλδήσκοντες ὑπὲρ χθονός. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
 μνήσατο Μηδείης πολυκερδέος ἐννεσιῶν,
 λάζετο δ' ἐκ πεδίοιο μέγαν περιηγέα πέτρον,
 δεινὸν Ἐνναλίου σόλον Ἄρεος· οὐ κέ μιν ἄνδρες
 αἰζηοὶ πίσυρες γαίης ἄπο τυτθὸν ἄειραν.
 τὸν ῥ' ἀνὰ χεῖρα λαβὼν μάλα τηλόθεν ἔμβαλε
 μέσσοις

αἶξας· αὐτὸς δ' ὑφ' ἐὼν σάκος ἔζετο λάθρῃ
 θαρσαλέως. Κόλχοι δὲ μέγ' ἴαχον, ὥς ὅτε πόντος 1370
 ἴαχεν ὀξεῖησιν ἐπιβρομέων σπιλάδεσσιν·
 τὸν δ' ἔλεν ἀμφασίῃ ῥιπῇ στιβαροῖο σόλοιο
 Αἰήτην. οἱ δ' ὥστε θοοὶ κύνες ἀμφιθορόντες
 ἀλλήλους βρυχηδὸν ἐδήμιον· οἱ δ' ἐπὶ γαίαν
 μητέρα πίπτον ἐοῖς ὑπὸ δούρασιν, ἥύτε πεῦκαι
 ἢ δρύες, ἅστ' ἀνέμοιο κατὰίκες δονέουσιν.
 οἶος δ' οὐρανόθεν πυρόεις ἀναπάλλεται ἀστὴρ
 ὀλκὸν ὑπαυγάζων, τέρας ἀνδράσιν, οἳ μιν ἴδωνται
 μαρμαρυγῇ σκοτίοιο δι' ἡέρος αἶξαντα·
 τοῖος ἄρ' Αἴσωνος υἱὸς ἐπέσσυτο γηγενέεσσιν,
 1380
 γυμνὸν δ' ἐκ κολεοῖο φέρε ξίφος, οὔτα δὲ μίγδην
 ἀμώων, πολέας μὲν ἔτ' ἐς νηδὺν λαγόνας τε
 ἡμίσεας ἀνέχοντας ἐς ἡέρα· τοὺς δὲ καὶ ἄχρις
 ὤμων τελλομένους· τοὺς δὲ νέον ἐστηῶτας,
 τοὺς δ' ἤδη καὶ ποσσὶν ἐπείγομένους ἐς ἄρῃα.
 ὥς δ' ὀπότη', ἀμφ' οὔροις ἐγειρομένου πολέμοιο,
 δείσας γειομόρος, μὴ οἱ προτάμωνται ἀρούρας,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

double-pointed spears and shining helmets ; and the gleam reached Olympus from beneath, flashing through the air. And as when abundant snow has fallen on the earth and the storm blasts have dispersed the wintry clouds under the murky night, and all the hosts of the stars appear shining through the gloom ; so did those warriors shine springing up above the earth. But Jason bethought him of the counsels of Medea full of craft, and seized from the plain a huge round boulder, a terrible quoit of Ares Enyalios ; four stalwart youths could not have raised it from the ground even a little. Taking it in his hands he threw it with a rush far away into their midst ; and himself crouched unseen behind his shield, with full confidence. And the Colchians gave a loud cry, like the roar of the sea when it beats upon sharp crags ; and speechless amazement seized Aeetes at the rush of the sturdy quoit. And the Earthborn, like fleet-footed hounds, leaped upon one another and slew with loud yells ; and on earth their mother they fell beneath their own spears, like pines or oaks, which storms of wind beat down. And even as a fiery star leaps from heaven, trailing a furrow of light, a portent to men, whoever see it darting with a gleam through the dusky sky ; in such wise did Aeson's son rush upon the earthborn men, and he drew from the sheath his bare sword, and smote here and there, mowing them down, many on the belly and side, half risen to the air—and some that had risen as far as the shoulders—and some just standing upright, and others even now rushing to battle. And as when a fight is stirred up concerning boundaries, and a husbandman, in fear lest they should ravage his

ἄρπην εὐκαμπῇ νεοθηγέα χερσὶ μεμαρπῶς
 ὦμὸν ἐπισπεύδων κείρει στάχυν, οὐδὲ βολῇσιν
 μίμνει ἐς ὥραίην τερσήμεναι ἥελίοιο·
 ὥς τότε γηγενέων κείρε στάχυν. αἵματι δ' ὀλκοὶ
 ἤυτε κρηναῖαι ἀμάραι πλήθοντο ῥοῇσιν.
 πίπτον δ', οἱ μὲν ὁδὰξ τετρηχότα βῶλον ἀρούρης¹
 λαζόμενοι πρηνεῖς, οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν, οἱ δ' ἐπ' ἀγοστῶ
 καὶ πλευροῖς, κήτεσσι δομὴν ἀτάλαντοι ιδέσθαι.
 πολλοὶ δ' οὐτάμενοι, πρὶν ὑπὸ χθονὸς ἵχνος ἀεῖραι,
 ὅσσον ἄνω προύτυψαν ἐς ἥερα, τόσσον ἔραζε
 βριθόμενοι πλαδαροῖσι καρήασιν ἡρήρειντο.
 ἔρνεά που τοίως, Διὸς ἄσπετον ὀμβρήσαντος,
 φυταλιῇ νεόθρεπτα κατημύουσιν ἔραζε
 κλασθέντα ῥίζηθεν, ἀλωήων πόνος ἀνδρῶν·
 τὸν δὲ κατηφείη τε καὶ οὐλοὸν ἄλγος ἰκάνει
 κλήρου σημαντήρα φυτοτρόφον· ὥς τότ' ἄνακτος
 Αἰήταο βαρεῖαι ὑπὸ φρένας ἦλθον ἀνῖαι.
 ἦιε δ' ἐς πτολίεθρον ὑπότροπος ἄμμιγα Κόλχοις,
 πορφύρων, ἧ κέ σφι θοώτερον ἀντιόωτο.
 ἦμαρ ἔδν, καὶ τῷ τετελεσμένος ἦεν ἀεθλος.

¹ ἀρούρης Hermann: ὁδοῦσιν MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

fields, seizes in his hand a curved sickle, newly sharpened, and hastily cuts the unripe crop, and waits not for it to be parched in due season by the beams of the sun; so at that time did Jason cut down the crop of the Earthborn; and the furrows were filled with blood, as the channels of a spring with water. And they fell, some on their faces biting the rough clod of earth with their teeth, some on their backs, and others on their hands and sides, like to sea-monsters to behold. And many, smitten before raising their feet from the earth, bowed down as far to the ground as they had risen to the air, and rested there with the damp of death on their brows. Even so, I ween, when Zeus has sent a measureless rain, new planted orchard-shoots droop to the ground, cut off by the root—the toil of gardening men; but heaviness of heart and deadly anguish come to the owner of the farm, who planted them; so at that time did bitter grief come upon the heart of King Aetes. And he went back to the city among the Colchians, pondering how he might most quickly oppose the heroes. And the day died, and Jason's contest was ended.

BOOK IV

SUMMARY OF BOOK IV

INVOCATION of the Muse (1-5).—Grief of Medea, who flies from the palace during the night and joins the Argonauts (6-91).—By the aid of Medea, Jason seizes and carries off the golden fleece, after which the Argonauts depart (92-211).—Pursued by the Colchians, they land in Paphlagonia, where Argus shows them the route to take (212-293).—The Argonauts sail up the Ister, by a branch of which they make their way into the Adriatic, where they find their progress barred by the Colchians, who had come by a shorter route (294-337).—Agreement between the Argonauts and the Colchians: Medea's reproaches to Jason (338-451).—Murder of Apsyrtus by Jason: the Colchians give up the pursuit (452-551).—The Argonauts sail along the Eridanus into the Rhone, and reach the abode of Circe in Italy (552-684).—Jason and Medea are purified by Circe: the Argonauts pass the isle of the Sirens, Scylla, Charybdis, and the Planctæ (685-981).—Arrival among the Phæacians: here other Colchians reclaim Medea, and, to prevent

SUMMARY OF BOOK IV

her surrender, her marriage with Jason is celebrated (982–1169).—Departure of the Argonauts, who are driven by a storm on to the Syrtes : they carry Argo on their shoulders to the Tritonian lake (1170–1484).—Deaths of Canthus and Mopsus (1485–1536).—The god Triton conducts Argo from the lake into the sea (1537–1637).—Episode of the giant Talos in Crete (1638–1693).—Arrival at the isle Anaphe : the dream of Euphemus, which is interpreted by Jason : arrival at Aegina and at Pagasae, the end of the voyage (1694–1781).

Δ

Αὐτὴ νῦν κάματόν γε, θεά, καὶ δήνεα κούρης
Κολχίδος ἔννεπε, Μοῦσα, Διὸς τέκος. ἦ γὰρ ἔμοιγε
ἀμφασίῃ ἰόος ἔνδον ἐλίσσεται ὀρμαίνοντι,
ἥέ μιν ἄτης πῆμα δυσίμερον, ἦ τόγ' ἐνίσπω
φύζαν ἀεικελίην, ἧ κάλλιπεν ἔθνεα Κόλχων.

Ἦτοι ὁ μὲν δῆμοιο μετ' ἀνδράσιν, ὅσσοι ἄριστοι,
παννύχιος δόλουν αἰπὺν ἐπὶ σφίσι μητιάσκειν
οἷσιν ἐνὶ μεγάροις, στυγερῶ ἐπὶ θυμὸν ἀέθλω
Αἰήτης ἄμοτον κεχολωμένος· οὐδ' ὄγε πάμπαν
θυγατέρων τάδε νόσφιν ἑὼν τελέεσθαι ἐώλπει. 10

Τῇ δ' ἀλεγεινότατον κραδίῃ φόβον ἔμβαλεν Ἥρη·
τρέσσειν δ', ἥντε τις κούφη κεμάς, ἦντε βαθείης
τάρφεσιν ἐν ξυλόχοιο κυνῶν ἐφόβησεν ὁμοκλή.
αὐτίκα γὰρ νημερτὲς οἴσασατο, μή μιν ἀρωγὴν
ληθέμεν, αἶψα δὲ πᾶσαν ἀναπλήσειν κακότητα.
τάρβει δ' ἀμφιπόλους ἐπίστορας· ἐν δέ οἱ ὅσσε
πλήτο πυρός, δεινὸν δὲ περιβρομέεσκον ἀκουαί.
πυκνὰ δὲ λαυκανίης ἐπεμάσσατο, πῦκνὰ δὲ κουρὶξ
ἐλκομένη πλοκάμους γοερῇ βρυχήσατ' ἀνίη.
καὶ νῦν κεν αὐτοῦ τῆμος ὑπὲρ μόρον ὤλετο κούρη, 20
φάρμακα πασσαμένη, Ἥρης δ' ἀλίωσε μενοινάς,
εἰ μή μιν Φρίξιοι θεὰ σὺν παισὶ φέβεσθαι

BOOK IV

Now do thou thyself, goddess Muse, daughter of Zeus, tell of the labour and wiles of the Colchian maiden. Surely my soul within me wavers with speechless amazement as I ponder whether I should call it the lovesick grief of mad passion or a panic flight, through which she left the Colchian folk.

Aeetes all night long with the bravest captains of his people was devising sheer treachery against the heroes, with fierce wrath in his heart at the issue of the hateful contest; nor did he deem at all that these things were being accomplished without the knowledge of his daughters.

But into Medea's heart Hera cast most grievous fear; and she trembled like a nimble fawn whom the baying of hounds hath terrified amid the thicket of a deep copse. For at once she truly forboded that the aid she had given was not hidden from her father, and that quickly she would fill up the cup of woe. And she dreaded the guilty knowledge of her handmaids; her eyes were filled with fire and her ears rung with a terrible cry. Often did she clutch at her throat, and often did she drag out her hair by the roots and groan in wretched despair. There on that very day the maiden would have tasted the drugs and perished and so have made void the purposes of Hera, had not the goddess driven her, all bewildered, to flee with the sons of Phrixus; and her

ᾠρσεν ἀτυζομένην· πτερόεις δέ οἱ ἐν φρεσὶ θυμὸς
 ἰάνθη· μετὰ δ' ἤγε παλίσσυτος ἀθρόα κόλπων
 φάρμακα πάντ' ἄμυδις κατεχεύατο φωριαμοῖο.
 κύσσε δ' ἐόν τε λέχος καὶ δικλίδας ἀμφοτέρωθεν
 σταθμούς, καὶ τοίχων ἐπαφήσατο, χερσὶ τε μακρὸν
 ῥήξαμένη πλόκαμον, θαλάμῳ μνημήια μητρὶ
 κάλλιπε παρθενίης, ἰδινῇ δ' ὀλοφύρατο φωνῇ·

‘Τόνδε τοι ἀντ’ ἐμέθεν ταναὸν πλόκον εἴμι λιπ-
 οῦσα,

30

μῆτερ ἐμή· χαίροις δὲ καὶ ἄνδιχα πολλὸν ἰούσῃ·
 χαίροις Χαλκιοῖπῃ, καὶ πᾶς δόμος. αἶθε σε πόντος,
 ξεῖνε, διέρραισεν, πρὶν Κολχίδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι.’

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· βλεφάρων δὲ κατ' ἀθρόα δάκρυα
 χεῖν.

οἷη δ' ἀφνειοῖο διειλυσθεῖσα δόμοιο
 ληϊάς, ἦντε νέον πάτρης ἀπενόσφισεν αἶσα,
 οὐδέ νύ πω μογεροῖο πεπεύρηται καμάτοιο,
 ἀλλ' ἔτ' ἀηθέσσουσα δύης καὶ δούλια ἔργα
 εἰσιν ἀτυζομένη χαλεπὰς ὑπὸ χεῖρας ἀνάσσης·

40

τοίη ἄρ' ἱμερόεσσα δόμων ἐξέσσυτο κούρη.
 τῇ δὲ καὶ αὐτόματοι θυρέων ὑπόειξαν ὀχῆες,
 ὠκείαις ἄψορροι ἀναθρώσκοντες αἰοδαῖς.

γυμνοῖσιν δὲ πόδεσσιν ἀνὰ στεινὰς θέεν οἴμους,
 λαιῇ μὲν χερὶ πέπλον ἐπ' ὀφρύσιν ἀμφὶ μέτωπα
 στειλαμένη καὶ καλὰ παρήια, δεξιτερῇ δὲ
 ἄκρην ὑψόθι πέζαν ἀερτάζουσα χιτῶνος.

καρπαλίμως δ' αἰδήλον ἀνὰ στίβον ἔκτοθι πύργων
 ἄστεος εὐρυχόροιο φόβῳ ἵκετ'· οὐδέ τις ἔγνω
 τήνγε¹ φυλακτῆρων, λάθε δὲ σφεας ὀρμηθεῖσα.

ἔνθεν ἵμεν νηόνδε μίλ' ἐφράσατ'· οὐ γὰρ αἶδρις
 ἦεν ὁδῶν, θαμὰ καὶ πρὶν ἀλωμένη ἀμφὶ τε νεκρούς,

50

¹ τήνγε W. G. Headlam: τήνδε MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

fluttering soul within her was comforted ; and then she poured from her bosom all the drugs back again into the casket. Then she kissed her bed, and the folding-doors on both sides, and stroked the walls, and tearing away in her hands a long tress of hair, she left it in the chamber for her mother, a memorial of her maidenhood, and thus lamented with passionate voice :

“ I go, leaving this long tress here in my stead, O mother mine ; take this farewell from me as I go far hence ; farewell Chalciope, and all my home. Would that the sea, stranger, had dashed thee to pieces, ere thou camest to the Colchian land ! ”

Thus she spake, and from her eyes shed copious tears. And as a bondmaid steals away from a wealthy house, whom fate has lately severed from her native land, nor yet has she made trial of grievous toil, but still unschooled to misery and shrinking in terror from slavish tasks, goes about beneath the cruel hands of a mistress ; even so the lovely maiden rushed forth from her home. But to her the bolts of the doors gave way self-moved, leaping backwards at the swift strains of her magic song. And with bare feet she sped along the narrow paths, with her left hand holding her robe over her brow to veil her face and fair cheeks, and with her right lifting up the hem of her tunic. Quickly along the dark track, outside the towers of the spacious city, did she come in fear ; nor did any of the warders note her, but she sped on unseen by them. Thence she was minded to go to the temple ; for well she knew the way, having often aforetime wandered there in quest of corpses and

ἀμφί τε δυσπαλέας ῥίζας χθονός, οἷα γυναῖκες
 φαρμακίδες· τρομερῶ δ' ὑπὸ δείματι πάλλετο θυμός.
 τὴν δὲ νέον Τιτηνὺς ἀνερχομένη περάτηθεν
 φοιταλέην ἐσιδοῦσα θεὰ ἐπεχέρατο Μῆνη
 ἀρπαλέως, καὶ τοῖα μετὰ φρεσὶν ἦσιν ἔειπεν·

‘Οὐκ ἄρ' ἐγὼ μούνη μετὰ Λάτμιον ἄντρον ἀλύσκω,
 οὐδ' οἷη καλῶ περιδαίομαι Ἐνδυμίωνι·
 ἦ θαμὰ δὴ καὶ σείο κίον δολίησιν ἀοιδαῖς,
 μνησαμένη φιλότητος, ἵνα σκοτίῃ ἐνὶ νυκτὶ
 φαρμάσσης εὐκήλος, ἃ τοι φίλα ἔργα τέτυκται.
 νῦν δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ δῆθεν ὁμοίης ἔμμορες ἄτης·
 δῶκε δ' ἀνιηρόν τοι Ἰήσωνα πῆμα γενέσθαι
 daίμων ἀλγινόεις. ἀλλ' ἔρχεο, τέτλαθι δ' ἔμπης
 καὶ πινυτὴ περ ἐοῦσα, πολύστονον ἄλγος ἀείρειν.’

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· τὴν δ' αἶψα πόδες φέρον ἐγκοινοῦ-
 σαν.

ἀσπασίως δ' ὄχθησιν ἐπήερθη ποταμοῖο,
 ἀντιπέρην λεύσσουσα πυρὸς σέλας, ὃ ρά τ' ἀέθλου
 παννύχιοι ἥρωες ἐυφροσύνησιν ἔδαιον.
 ὀξείῃ δ' ἤπειτα διὰ κνέφας ὄρθια φωνῇ
 ὀπλότατον Φρίξοιο περαιόθεν ἤπνε παίδων,
 Φρόντιν· ὁ δὲ ξὺν ἐοῖσι κασιγνήτοις ὅπα κούρης
 αὐτῷ τ' Αἰσονίδῃ τεκμήρατο· σίγα δ' ἐταῖροι
 θάμβεον, εὐτ' ἐνόησαν ὃ δὴ καὶ ἐτήτυμον ἦεν.
 τρεῖς μὲν ἀνήυσεν, τρεῖς δ' ὀτρύνοντος ὀμίλου
 Φρόντις ἀμοιβήδην ἀντίαχεν. οἱ δ' ἄρα τείως
 ἥρωες μετὰ τήνγε θοοῖς ἐλάασκον ἐρετμοῖς.
 οὐπω πείσματα νηὸς ἐπ' ἠπείροιο περαιῆς
 βάλλον, ὁ δὲ κραιπνοὺς χέρσῳ πόδας ἤκεν Ἰήσων
 ὑψοῦ ἀπ' ἱκριόφιν· μετὰ δὲ Φρόντις τε καὶ Ἄργος.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

noxious roots of the earth, as a sorceress is wont to do; and her soul fluttered with quivering fear. And the Titanian goddess, the moon, rising from a far land, beheld her as she fled distraught, and fiercely exulted over her, and thus spake to her own heart:

“Not I alone then stray to the Latmian cave, nor do I alone burn with love for fair Endymion; oft times with thoughts of love have I been driven away by thy crafty spells, in order that in the darkness of night thou mightest work thy sorcery at ease, even the deeds dear to thee. And now thou thyself too hast part in a like mad passion; and some god of affliction has given thee Jason to be thy grievous woe. Well, go on, and steel thy heart, wise though thou be, to take up thy burden of pain, fraught with many sighs.”

Thus spake the goddess; but swiftly the maiden's feet bore her, hasting on. And gladly did she gain the high bank of the river and beheld on the opposite side the gleam of fire, which all night long the heroes were kindling in joy at the contest's issue. Then through the gloom, with clear-pealing voice from across the stream, she called on Phrontis, the youngest of Phrixus' sons, and he with his brothers and Aeson's son recognised the maiden's voice; and in silence his comrades wondered when they knew that it was so in truth. Thrice she called, and thrice at the bidding of the company Phrontis called out in reply; and meantime the heroes were rowing with swift-moving oars in search of her. Not yet were they casting the ship's hawsers upon the opposite bank, when Jason with light feet leapt to land from the deck above, and after him Phrontis and Argus,

υἷε δὴ Φρίξου, χαμάδις θόρον· ἢ δ' ἄρα τούσγε
γούνων ἀμφοτέρησι περισχομένη προσέειπεν·

“Ἐκ με, φίλοι, ῥύσασθε δυσάμμορον, ὧς δὲ καὶ
αὐτοὺς

ὑμέας Αἰήταο, πρὸ γάρ τ' ἀναφανδὰ τέτυκται
πάντα μάλ', οὐδέ τι μῆχος ἰκάνεται. ἀλλ' ἐπὶ νηὶ
φεύγωμεν, πρὶν τόνδε θοῶν ἐπιβήμεναι ἵππων.

δώσω δὲ χρύσειον ἐγὼ δέρος, εὐνήσασα
φρουρὸν ὄφιν· τύνη δὲ θεοὺς ἐνὶ σοῖσιν ἑταίροις,
ξεῖνε, τεῶν μύθων ἐπίστορας, οὓς μοι ὑπέστης,
ποίησαι· μῆδ' ἐνθεν ἐκαστέρω ὀρμηθεῖσαν
χήτεϊ κηδεμόνων ὀνοτὴν καὶ ἀεικέα θείης.”

90

Ἴσκεν ἀκηχεμένη· μέγα δὲ φρένες Αἰσονίδαο
γῆθεον· αἶψα δέ μιν περὶ γούνασι πεπτηνυῖαν
ἦκ' ἀναειρόμενος προσπτύξατο, θάρσυνέν τε·
“Δαιμονίη, Ζεὺς αὐτὸς Ὀλύμπιος ὄρκιος ἔστω,
Ἥρη τε Ζυγίη, Διὸς εὐνέτις, ἥ μὲν ἐμοῖσιν
κουριδίην σε δόμοισιν ἐνιστήσσεσθαι ἄκοιτιν,
εὖτ' ἂν ἐς Ἑλλάδα γαίαν ἰκώμεθα νοστήσαντες.”

Ὡς ἡὔδα, καὶ χεῖρα παρασχεδὸν ἤραρε χειρὶ
δεξιτερήν· ἢ δὲ σφιν ἐς ἱερὸν ἄλσος ἀνώγει
νῆα θοὴν ἐλάαν αὐτοσχεδόν, ὄφρ' ἔτι νύκτωρ
κῶας ἐλόντες ἄγοιντο παρέκ νόον Αἰήταο.
ἐνθ' ἔπος ἡδὲ καὶ ἔργον ὁμοῦ πέλεν ἐσσυμένοισιν.
εἰς γάρ μιν βῆσαντές, ἀπὸ χθονὸς αὐτίκ' ἔωσαν
νῆα· πολὺς δ' ὀρυμαγδὸς ἐπείγομένων ἐλάττησιν
ἦεν ἀριστήων· ἢ δ' ἔμπαλιν αἰσσοῦσα
γαίη χεῖρας ἔτεινεν ἀμήχανος. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
θάρσυνέν τ' ἐπέεσσι, καὶ ἴσχανεν ἀσχαλώωσαν.

100

Ἦμος δ' ἀνέρες ὕπνον ἀπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἐβάλοντο
ἀγρόται, οἵτε κύνεσσι πεποιθότες οὔποτε νύκτα

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THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

sons of Phrixus, leapt to the ground; and she, clasping their knees with both hands, thus addressed them :

“Save me, the hapless one, my friends, from Aetes, and yourselves too, for all is brought to light, nor doth any remedy come. But let us flee upon the ship, before the king mounts his swift chariot. And I will lull to sleep the guardian serpent and give you the fleece of gold; but do thou, stranger, make the gods witness of the vows thou hast taken on thyself for my sake; and now that I have fled far from my country, make me not a mark for blame and dishonour for want of kinsmen.”

She spake in anguish; but greatly did the heart of Aeson's son rejoice, and at once, as she fell at his knees, he raised her gently and embraced her, and spake words of comfort: “Lady, let Zeus of Olympus himself be witness to my oath, and Hera, queen of marriage, bride of Zeus, that I will set thee in my halls my own wedded wife, when we have reached the land of Hellas on our return.”

Thus he spake, and straightway clasped her right hand in his; and she bade them row the swift ship to the sacred grove near at hand, in order that, while it was still night, they might seize and carry off the fleece against the will of Aetes. Word and deed were one to the eager crew. For they took her on board, and straightway thrust the ship from shore; and loud was the din as the chieftains strained at their oars, but she, starting back, held out her hands in despair towards the shore. But Jason spoke cheering words and restrained her grief.

Now at the hour when men have cast sleep from their eyes—huntsmen, who, trusting to their hounds,

ἄγχαυρον κνώσσουσιν, ἀλευάμενοι φάος ἡοῦς,
 μὴ πρὶν ἀμαλδύνῃ θηρῶν στίβον ἥδ' καὶ ὁδμὴν
 θηρείην λευκῇσιν ἐνισκίμψασα βολῇσιν·
 τῆμος ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης κούρη τ' ἀπὸ νηὸς ἔβησαν
 ποιήεντ' ἀνὰ χῶρον, ἵνα Κριοῦ καλέονται
 εὐναί, ὅθι πρῶτον κεκμηότα γούνατ' ἔκαμψεν,
 νώτοισιν φορέων Μινυήιον υἱ' Ἀθάμαντος.
 ἐγγύθι δ' αἰθαλόεντα πέλεν βωμοῖο θέμεθλα,
 ὃν ῥά ποτ' Αἰολίδης Διὶ Φυξίῳ εἶσατο Φρίξος,
 ῥέζων κεῖνο τέρας παγχρύσειον, ὥς οἱ ἔειπεν
 Ἑρμείας πρόφρων ξυμβλήμενος. ἐνθ' ἄρα τούσγε
 Ἄργου φραδμοσύνησιν ἀριστῆες μεθέηκαν.

120

Τῷ δὲ δι' ἀτραπιτοῖο μεθ' ἱερὸν ἄλσος ἵκοντο,
 φηγὸν ἀπειρεσίην διζημένω, ἧ' ἐπὶ κῶας
 βέβλητο, νεφέλῃ ἐναλίγκιον, ἥτ' ἀνιόντος
 ἡελίου φλογερῇσιν ἐρεύθεται ἀκτίνεσσιν.
 αὐτὰρ ὁ ἀντικρὺ περιμήκεα τείνετο δειρὴν
 ὄξυς αὐπνοῖσιν προῖδων ὄφιν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν
 νισσομένους, ροίζει δὲ πελώριον· ἀμφὶ δὲ μακραί
 ἡιόνες ποταμοῖο καὶ ἄσπετον ἴαχεν ἄλσος.
 ἔκλυον οἱ καὶ πολλὸν ἐκάς Τιτηνίδος Αἴης
 Κολχίδα γῆν ἐνέμοντο παρὰ προχοῇσι Λύκοιο,
 ὅστ' ἀποκιδνάμενος ποταμοῦ κελάδοντος Ἀράξεω
 Φάσιδι συμφέρεται ἱερὸν ῥόον· οἱ δὲ συνάμφω
 Καυκασίην ἄλαδ' εἰς ἐν ἐλαννόμενοι προχέουσιν.
 δείματι δ' ἐξέγροντο λεχωίδες, ἀμφὶ δὲ παισὶν
 νηπιάχοις, οἵτε σφιν ὑπ' ἀγκαλίδεσσιν ἴαυον,
 ροίξω παλλομένοις χεῖρας βάλλον ἀσχαλώωσαι.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τυφομένης ὕλης ὕπερ αἰθαλόεσσαι
 καπνοῖο στροφάλιγγες ἀπείριτοι εἰλίσσονται,
 ἄλλη δ' αἰψ' ἐτέρῃ ἐπιτέλλεται αἰὲν ἐπιπρὸ
 νεόθεν εἰλίγγοισιν ἐπήορος ἐξανιούσα·

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THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

never slumber away the end of night, but avoid the light of dawn lest, smiting with its white beams, it efface the track and scent of the quarry—then did Aeson's son and the maiden step forth from the ship over a grassy spot, the "Ram's couch" as men call it, where it first bent its wearied knees in rest, bearing on its back the Minyan son of Athamas. And close by, all smirched with soot, was the base of the altar, which the Aeolid Phrixus once set up to Zeus, the aider of fugitives, when he sacrificed the golden wonder at the bidding of Hermes who graciously met him on the way. There by the counsels of Argus the chieftains put them ashore.

And they two by the pathway came to the sacred grove, seeking the huge oak tree on which was hung the fleece, like to a cloud that blushes red with the fiery beams of the rising sun. But right in front the serpent with his keen sleepless eyes saw them coming, and stretched out his long neck and hissed in awful wise; and all round the long banks of the river echoed and the boundless grove. Those heard it who dwelt in the Colchian land very far from Titanian Aea, near the outfall of Lycus, the river which parts from loud-roaring Araxes and blends his sacred stream with Phasis, and they twain flow on together in one and pour their waters into the Caucasian Sea. And through fear young mothers awoke, and round their new-born babes, who were sleeping in their arms, threw their hands in agony, for the small limbs started at that hiss. And as when above a pile of smouldering wood countless eddies of smoke roll up mingled with soot, and one ever springs up quickly after another, rising aloft from beneath in wavering wreaths; so at that

ὥς τότε κείνο πέλωρον ἀπειρεσίας ἐλέλιξεν
 ῥυμβόνας ἀζαλέησιν ἐπηρεφέας φολίδεσσιν.
 τοῖο δ' ἐλισσομένοιο κατ' ὄμματα νίσσето¹ κούρη,
 "Ὑπνον ἀοσσητήρα, θεῶν ὕπατον, καλέουσα
 ἠδείη ἐνοπῇ, θέλξαι τέρας· αὖτε δ' ἀνασσαν
 νυκτιπόλον, χθονίην, εὐαντέα δοῦναι ἐφορμήν.
 εἶπετο δ' Αἰσονίδης πεφοβημένος, αὐτὰρ ὅγ' ἦδη
 οἴμῃ θελγόμενος δολιχὴν ἀνελλύετ' ἄκανθαν 150
 γηγενέος σπείρης, μήκυνε δὲ μυρία κύκλα,
 οἶον ὅτε βληχροῖσι κυλινδόμενον πελάγεςσιν
 κῦμα μέλαν κωφὺν τε καὶ ἄβρομον· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης
 ὑψοῦ σμερδαλέην κεφαλὴν μενέαινεν αἰείρας
 ἀμφοτέρους ὀλοῇσι περιπτύξαι γενύεσσιν.
 ἡ δέ μιν ἀρκεύθοιο νέον τετμηότι θαλλῶ
 βάπτουσ' ἐκ κυκεῶνος ἀκήρατα φάρμακ' αἰοδαῖς,
 ραῖνε κατ' ὀφθαλμῶν· περί τ' ἀμφί τε νήριτος ὁδμῇ
 φαρμάκου ὕπνον ἔβαλλε· γένυν δ' αὐτῇ ἐνὶ χώρῃ
 θῆκεν ἐρεισάμενος· τὰ δ' ἀπείρονα πολλὸν ὀπίσσω 160
 κύκλα πολυπρέμνοιο διέξ ὕλης τετάνυστο.
 "Εὐθα δ' ὁ μὲν χρύσειον ἀπὸ δρυὸς αἶνυτο κῶας,
 κούρης κεκλομένης· ἡ δ' ἔμπεδον ἐστηνῖα
 φαρμάκῳ ἔφηχεν θηρὸς κάρη, εἰσόκε δὴ μιν
 αὐτὸς ἐπὶ νῆα παλιντροπιάασθαι Ἰήσων
 ἦνωγεν, λείπεν δὲ πολύσκιον ἄλσος Ἀρης.
 ὥς δὲ σεληναίην διχομήνιδα παρθένος αἴγλην
 ὑψόθεν ἐξανέχουσαν ὑπωροφίου θαλάμοιο
 λεπταλέῳ ἐανῶ ὑποίσχεται· ἐν δέ οἱ ἦτορ
 χαίρει δερκομένης καλὸν σέλας· ὥς τότ' Ἰήσων 170
 γηθόσυνος μέγα κῶας ἐαῖς ἐναείρατο χερσίν·
 καὶ οἱ ἐπὶ ξανθῇσι παρησίιν ἠδὲ μετώπῳ
 μαρμαρυγῇ ληνέων φλογὶ εἵκελον ἶζεν ἔρευθος.

¹ κατ' ὄμματα νίσσето Merkel: κατόμματον εἶσето LG.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

time did that monster roll his countless coils covered with hard dry scales. And as he writhed, the maiden came before his eyes, with sweet voice calling to her aid Sleep, highest of gods, to charm the monster; and she cried to the queen of the underworld, the night-wanderer, to be propitious to her enterprise. And Aeson's son followed in fear, but the serpent, already charmed by her song, was relaxing the long ridge of his giant spine, and lengthening out his myriad coils, like a dark wave, dumb and noiseless, rolling over a sluggish sea; but still he raised aloft his grisly head, eager to enclose them both in his murderous jaws. But she with a newly cut spray of juniper, dipping and drawing untempered charms from her mystic brew, sprinkled his eyes, while she chanted her song; and all around the potent scent of the charm cast sleep; and on the very spot he let his jaw sink down; and far behind through the wood with its many trees were those countless coils stretched out.

Hereupon Jason snatched the golden fleece from the oak, at the maiden's bidding; and she, standing firm, smeared with the charm the monster's head, till Jason himself bade her turn back towards their ship, and she left the grove of Ares, dusky with shade. And as a maiden catches on her finely wrought robe the gleam of the moon at the full, as it rises above her high-roofed chamber; and her heart rejoices as she beholds the fair ray; so at that time did Jason uplift the mighty fleece in his hands; and from the shimmering of the flocks of wool there settled on his fair cheeks and brow a red flush like a flame. And

ὅσση δὲ ῥινὸς βοὸς ἥνιος ἢ ἐλάφοιο
γίγνεται, ἦντ' ἀγρῶσται ἀχαιινὴν καλέουσιν,
τόσσον ἔην πάντη χρύσειον ἐφύπερθεν ἄωτον.
βεβρίθει λήνεσσιν ἐπηρεφές· ἥλιθα δὲ χθὼν
αἰὲν ὑποπρὸ ποδῶν ἀμαρύσσετο νισσομένοιο.
ἦιε δ' ἄλλοτε μὲν λαιῶ ἐπιειμένος ὦμω
αὐχένος ἐξ ὑπάτιοιο ποδηνεκές, ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε
εἴλει ἀφασσόμενος· περὶ γὰρ δίεν, ὄφρα ἔ μή τις
ἀνδρῶν ἢ θεῶν νοσφίσσεται ἀντιβολήσας.

180

Ἦὼς μὲν ῥ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἐκίδνατο, τοὶ δ' ἐς ὄμιλον
ἴξον. θάμβησαν δὲ νέοι μέγα κῶας ἰδόντες
λαμπόμενον στεροπῇ ἴκελον Διός. ὦρτο δ' ἕκαστος
ψαῦσαι ἐελδόμενος δέχθαι τ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐήσιν.
Αἰσονίδης δ' ἄλλους μὲν ἐρήτυε, τῷ δ' ἐπὶ φᾶρος
κάββαλε νηγάτεον· πρύμνῃ δ' ἐνεείσατο κούρην
ἀνθέμενος, καὶ τοῖον ἔπος μετὰ πᾶσιν ἔειπεν·

Ἐμὲ κέτι νῦν χάζεσθε, φίλοι, πάτρηνδε νέεσθαι. 190
ἦδη γὰρ χρειώ, τῆς εἵνεκα τήνδ' ἀλεγεινὴν
ναυτιλίην ἔτλημεν οἰζὺν μοχθίζοντες,
εὐπαλέως κούρης ὑπὸ δῆνεσι κεκράανται.
τὴν μὲν ἐγὼν ἐθέλουσαν ἀνάξομαι οἴκαδ' ἄκοιτιν
κουριδίην· ἀτὰρ ὕμμες Ἀχαιῖδος οἴά τε πάσης
αὐτῶν θ' ὑμείων ἐσθλὴν ἐπαρωγὸν εὐοῦσαν
σώετε. δὴ γάρ που, μάλ' οἴομαι, εἴσιν ἐρύξων
Αἰήτης ὁμάδῳ πόντονδ' ἵμεν ἐκ ποταμοῖο.
ἀλλ' οἱ μὲν διὰ νηός, ἀμοιβαδὶς ἀνέρος ἀνὴρ
ἐξόμενος, πηδοῖσιν ἐρέσσετε· τοὶ δὲ βοείας
ἀσπίδας ἡμίσεες, δῆων θοὸν ἔχμα βολάων,
προσχόμενοι νόστῳ ἐπαμύνετε. νῦν δ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν
παῖδας εὐὸς πάτρην τε φίλην, γεραροὺς τε τοκῆας

200

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

great as is the hide of a yearling ox or stag, which huntsmen call a brocket, so great in extent was the fleece all golden above. Heavy it was, thickly clustered with flocks; and as he moved along, even beneath his feet the sheen rose up from the earth. And he strode on now with the fleece covering his left shoulder from the height of his neck to his feet, and now again he gathered it up in his hands; for he feared exceedingly, lest some god or man should meet him and deprive him thereof.

Dawn was spreading over the earth when they reached the throng of heroes; and the youths marvelled to behold the mighty fleece, which gleamed like the lightning of Zeus. And each one started up eager to touch it and clasp it in his hands. But the son of Aeson restrained them all, and threw over it a mantle newly-woven; and he led the maiden to the stern and seated her there, and spake to them all as follows:

“No longer now, my friends, forbear to return to your fatherland. For now the task for which we dared this grievous voyage, toiling with bitter sorrow of heart, has been lightly fulfilled by the maiden’s counsels. Her—for such is her will—I will bring home to be my wedded wife; do ye preserve her, the glorious saviour of all Achaea and of yourselves. For of a surety, I ween, will Aeetes come with his host to bar our passage from the river into the sea. But do some of you toil at the oars in turn, sitting man by man; and half of you raise your shields of oxhide, a ready defence against the darts of the enemy, and guard our return. And now in our hands we hold the fate of our children and dear country and of our aged parents; and on our venture

ἴσχομεν· ἡμετέρῃ δ' ἐπερείδεται Ἑλλὰς ἐφορμῇ,
ἥ ἐκατηφείην, ἥ καὶ μέγα κῦδος ἀρέσθαι.'

ὣς φάτο, δῦνε δὲ τεύχε' ἀρήϊα· τοὶ δ' ἰάχησαν
θεσπέσιον μεμαῶτες. ὁ δὲ ξίφος ἐκ κολεοῖο
σπασσάμενος πρυμναῖα νεὸς¹ ἀπὸ πείσματ' ἔκοψεν.
ἄγχι δὲ παρθενικῆς κεκορυθμένος ἰθυντῆρι
Ἀγκαίῳ παρέβασκεν· ἐπείγετο δ' εἰρεσίῃ νηὺς 210
σπερχομένων ἄμοτον ποταμοῦ ἄφαρ ἐκτὸς ἐλάσσαι.

Ἦδη δ' Αἰήτῃ ὑπερήνορι πᾶσί τε Κόλχοις
Μηδείης περίπυστος ἔρως καὶ ἔργ' ἐτέτυκτο.
ἐς δ' ἀγορὴν ἀγέροντ' ἐνὶ τεύχεσιν· ὅσσα δὲ πόντου
κύματα χειμερίοιο κορύσσεται ἐξ ἀνέμοιο,
ἥ ὅσα φύλλα χαμᾶζε περικλαδέος πέσεν ὕλης
φυλλοχόῳ ἐνὶ μηνί—τίς ἂν τάδε τεκμήραιτο;—
ὥς οἱ ἀπειρέσιοι ποταμοῦ παρεμέτρεον ὄχθας,
κλαγγῇ μαιμώνοντες· ὁ δ' εὐτύκτω ἐνὶ δίφρῳ
Αἰήτης ἵπποισι μετέπρεπεν, οὓς οἱ ὄπασσεν 220
Ἥελιος, πνοιῇσιν ἐειδομένους ἀνέμοιο,
σκαίῃ μὲν ῥ' ἐνὶ χειρὶ σάκος δινωτὸν ἀείρων,
τῇ δ' ἐτέρῃ πεύκην περιμήκεα· παρ δέ οἱ ἔγχος
ἀντικρὺ τετάνυστο πελώριον. ἡνία δ' ἵππων
γέντο χεροῖν' Ἀψυρτος. ὑπεκπρὸ δὲ πόντον ἔταμνευ
νηὺς ἥδη κρατεροῖσιν ἐπείγομένη ἐρέτῃσιν,
καὶ μεγάλου ποταμοῖο καταβλώσκοντι ῥέεθρῳ.
αὐτὰρ ἄναξ ἄτῃ πολυπήμονι χεῖρας ἀείρας
Ἥελιον καὶ Ζῆνα κακῶν ἐπιμάρτυρας ἔργων
κέκλετο· δεινὰ δὲ παντὶ παρασχεδὸν ἦπνε λαῶ, 230
εἰ μὴ οἱ κούρην αὐτάγρετον, ἥ ἄνα γαίαν,
ἥ πλωτῆς εὐρόντες ἔτ' εἰν αἰλὸς οἴδματι νῆα,

¹ νεὸς Rzach : νεὼς MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

all Hellas depends, to reap either the shame of failure or great renown."

Thus he spake, and donned his armour of war; and they cried aloud, wondrously eager. And he drew his sword from the sheath and cut the hawsers at the stern. And near the maiden he took his stand ready armed by the steersman Ancaeus, and with their rowing the ship sped on as they strained desperately to drive her clear of the river.

By this time Medea's love and deeds had become known to haughty Aeetes and to all the Colchians. And they thronged to the assembly in arms; and countless as the waves of the stormy sea when they rise crested by the wind, or as the leaves that fall to the ground from the wood with its myriad branches in the month when the leaves fall—who could reckon their tale?—so they in countless number poured along the banks of the river shouting in frenzy; and in his shapely chariot Aeetes shone forth above all with his steeds, the gift of Helios, swift as the blasts of the wind. In his left hand he raised his curved shield, and in his right a huge pine-torch, and near him in front stood up his mighty spear. And Apsyrtus held in his hands the reins of the steeds. But already the ship was cleaving the sea before her, urged on by stalwart oarsmen, and the stream of the mighty river rushing down. But the king in grievous anguish lifted his hands and called on Helios and Zeus to bear witness to their evil deeds; and terrible threats he uttered against all his people, that unless they should with their own hands seize the maiden, either on the land or still finding the ship on the swell of

ἄξουσιν, καὶ θυμὸν ἐνιπλήσει μενεαίνων
τίσασθαι τάδε πάντα, δαήσονται κεφαλῇσιν
πάντα χόλον καὶ πᾶσαν ἔην ὑποδέγμενοι ἄτην.

Ὡς ἔφατ' Αἰήτης· αὐτῷ δ' ἐνὶ ἡματι Κόλχοι
νῆας τ' εἰρύσαντο, καὶ ἄρμενα νηυσὶ βάλοντο,
αὐτῷ δ' ἡματι πόντον ἀνήιον· οὐδέ κε φαίης
τόσσον νηίτην στόλον ἔμμεναι, ἀλλ' οἰωνῶν
ἰλαδὸν ἄσπετον ἔθνος ἐπιβρομέειν πελάγεσσιν.

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Οἱ δ' ἀνέμου λαιψήρᾳ θεᾶς βουλῇσιν ἀέντος
Ἥρης, ὄφρ' ὥκιστα κακὸν Πελῖας δόμοισιν
Αἰαίῃ Μῆδεια Πελασγίδα γαῖαν ἵκηται,
ἡοὶ ἐνὶ τριτάτῃ πρυμνήσια νηὸς ἔδησαν
Παφλαγόνων ἀκτῇσι, πάροιθ' Ἄλυσος ποταμοῖο.
ἢ γάρ σφ' ἔξαποβάντας ἀρέσσασθαι θυέεσσιν
ἠνώγει Ἑκάτην. καὶ δὴ τὰ μὲν, ὅσσα θυηλὴν
κούρη πορσανέουσα τιτύσκετο, μήτε τις ἴστωρ
εἴη, μήτ' ἐμὲ θυμὸς ἐποτρύνειεν αἰεδεῖν.

ἄζομαι αὐδῆσαι· τό γε μὴν ἔδος ἐξέτι κείνου,
ὃ ῥα θεᾶ ἥρωες ἐπὶ ῥηγμῖσιν ἔδειμαν,
ἀνδράσιν ὄψιγόνοισι μένει καὶ τῆμος ἰδέσθαι.

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Αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδης ἐμνήσατο, σὺν δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι
ἥρωες, Φινῆος, ὃ δὴ πλόον ἄλλον ἔειπεν
ἐξ Αἴης ἔσσεσθαι· ἀνώιστος δ' ἐτέτυκτο
πᾶσιν ὁμῶς. Ἄργος δὲ λιλαιομένοις ἀγόρευσεν·

ἝΝισσόμεθ' Ὀρχομενὸν τὴν ἔχραεν ὕμμι περῆσαι
νημερτῆς ὅδε μάντις, ὅτῳ ξυνέβητε πάροιθεν.
ἔστιν γὰρ πλόος ἄλλος, ὃν ἀθανάτων ἱερῆς
πέφραδον, οἱ Θήβης Τριτωνίδος ἐκγεγάασιν.
οὐπῶ τείρεα πάντα, τὰ τ' οὐρανῷ εἰλίσσονται,
οὐδέ τί πω Δαναῶν ἱερὸν γένος ἦεν ἀκούσαι

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THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

the open sea, and bring her back, that so he might satisfy his eager soul with vengeance for all those deeds, at the cost of their own lives they should learn and abide all his rage and revenge.

Thus spake Aeetes; and on that same day the Colchians launched their ships and cast the tackle on board, and on that same day sailed forth on the sea; thou wouldst not say so mighty a host was a fleet of ships, but that a countless flight of birds, swarm on swarm, was clamouring over the sea.

Swiftly the wind blew, as the goddess Hera planned, so that most quickly Aeaeon Medea might reach the Pelasgian land, a bane to the house of Pelias, and on the third morn they bound the ship's stern cables to the shores of the Paphlagonians, at the mouth of the river Halys. For Medea bade them land and propitiate Hecate with sacrifice. Now all that the maiden prepared for offering the sacrifice may no man know, and may my soul not urge me to sing thereof. Awe restrains my lips, yet from that time the altar which the heroes raised on the beach to the goddess remains till now, a sight to men of a later day.

And straightway Aeson's son and the rest of the heroes bethought them of Phineus, how that he had said that their course from Aea should be different, but to all alike his meaning was dim. Then Argus spake, and they eagerly hearkened:

"We go to Orchomenus, whither that unerring seer, whom ye met aforetime, foretold your voyage. For there is another course, signified by those priests of the immortal gods, who have sprung from Tritonian Thebes. As yet all the stars that wheel in the heaven were not, nor yet, though one should inquire, could aught be heard of the sacred

πευθομένοις· οἳ δ' ἔσαν Ἀρκάδες Ἀπιδανῆες,
 Ἀρκάδες, οἳ καὶ πρόσθε σεληναίης ὑδέονται
 ζῶειν, φηγὸν ἔδοντες ἐν οὔρεσιν· οὐδὲ Πελασγίς
 χθὼν τότε κυδαλίμοισιν ἀνάσσετο Δευκαλίδησιν,
 ἦμος ὅτ' Ἡερίη πολυλλήιος ἐκλήιστο,
 μήτηρ Αἴγυπτος προτερηγενέων αἰζηῶν,
 καὶ ποταμὸς Τρίτων ἡύρροος, ᾧ ὑπο πᾶσα
 ἄρδεται Ἡερίη· Διόθεν δέ μιν οὔποτε δεύει 270
 ὄμβρος· ἅλις προχοῇσι δ' ἀνασταχύουσιν ἄρουραι.
 ἔνθεν δὴ τινά φασι πέριξ διὰ πᾶσαν ὁδεῦσαι
 Εὐρώπην Ἀσίην τε βίη καὶ κάρτεϊ λαῶν
 σφωιτέρων θάρσει τε πεποιθότα· μυρία δ' ἄστη
 νάσσατ' ἐποικχόμενος, τὰ μὲν ἢ ποθι ναιετάουσιν,
 ἢ καὶ οὔ· πουλὺς γὰρ ἄδην ἐπενήνοθεν αἰών.
 Αἰῶ γε μὴν ἔτι νῦν μένει ἔμπεδον νίωνοί τε
 τῶνδ' ἀνδρῶν, οὓς ὅσγε καθίσσατο ναιέμεν Αἴαν,
 οἳ δὴ τοι γραπτὺς πατέρων ἔθεν εἰρύονται,
 κύρβιας, οἷς ἐνι πᾶσαι ὁδοὶ καὶ πείρατ' ἔασιν 280
 ὑγρῆς τε τραφερῆς τε πέριξ ἐπινισσομένοισιν.
 ἔστι δέ τις ποταμός, ὕπατον κέρας Ὠκεανοῖο,
 εὐρύς τε προβαθὴς τε καὶ ὀλκῆδι νηὶ περιῆσαι·
 Ἰστρον μιν καλέοντες ἐκὰς διετεκμήραντο·
 ὃς δὴ τοι τείως μὲν ἀπείρονα τέμνεται ἄρουραν
 εἷς οἶος· πηγαὶ γὰρ ὑπὲρ πνοιῆς βορέαο
 Ῥιπαίοις ἐν ὄρεσιν ἀπόπροθι μορμύρουσιν.
 ἀλλ' ὁπόταν Θρηκῶν Σκυθέων τ' ἐπιβήσεται οὔρους,
 ἔνθα διχῇ τὸ μὲν εἶθα μετ' Ἰονίην¹ ἄλλα βάλλει

¹ μετ' ἡφῆν Gerhard : μεθ' ἡμετέρην Fitch after Wilamowitz-Moellendorff.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

race of the Danai. Apidanean Arcadians alone existed, Arcadians who lived even before the moon, it is said, eating acorns on the hills; nor at that time was the Pelasgian land ruled by the glorious sons of Deucalion, in the days when Egypt, mother of men of an older time, was called the fertile Morning-land, and the river fair-flowing Triton, by which all the Morning-land is watered; and never does the rain from Zeus moisten the earth; but from the flooding of the river abundant crops spring up. From this land, it is said, a king¹ made his way all round through the whole of Europe and Asia, trusting in the might and strength and courage of his people; and countless cities did he find wherever he came, whereof some are still inhabited and some not; many an age hath passed since then. But Aea abides unshaken even now and the sons of those men whom that king settled to dwell in Aea. They preserve the writings of their fathers, graven on pillars, whereon are marked all the ways and the limits of sea and land as ye journey on all sides round. There is a river, the uttermost horn of Ocean, broad and exceeding deep, that a merchant ship may traverse; they call it Ister and have marked it far off; and for a while it cleaves the boundless tilth alone in one stream; for beyond the blasts of the north wind, far off in the Rhipaeon mountains, its springs burst forth with a roar. But when it enters the boundaries of the Thracians and Scythians, here, dividing its stream into two, it sends its waters partly into the Ionian sea,² and partly to the

¹ The allusion is to Sesostris, see Herod. ii. 102 foll.

² Or, reading ἡμετέραν, "into our sea." The Euxine is meant in any case and the word Ionian is therefore wrong.

τῇδ' ὕδωρ, τὸ δ' ὀπισθε βαθὺν διὰ κόλπον ἵησιν 290
 σχιζόμενος πόντου Τρινακρίου εἰσανέχοντα,
 γαίῃ ὃς ὑμετέρῃ παρακέκλιται, εἰ ἔτεόν δὴ
 ὑμετέρης γαίης Ἀχελώιος ἐξανήσιν·

ᾧ Ως ἄρ' ἔφη· τοῖσιν δὲ θεὰ τέρας ἐγγυάλιξεν
 αἴσιον, ᾧ καὶ πάντες ἐπευφήμησαν ἰδόντες,
 στέλλεσθαι τήνδ' οἶμον. ἐπιπρὸ γὰρ ὀλκὸς ἐτύχθη
 οὐρανίης ἀκτῖνος, ὅπῃ καὶ ἀμεύσιμον ἦεν.
 γηθόσυνοι δὲ Λύκοιο κατ' αὐτόθι παῖδα λιπόντες
 λαΐφεσι πεπταμένοισιν ὑπεῖρ ἄλα ναυτίλλοντο,
 οὔρεα Παφλαγόνων θηέυμενοι. οὐδὲ Κάραμβιν 300
 γνάμψαν, ἐπεὶ πνοιαί τε καὶ οὐρανίου πυρὸς αἴγλη
 μέινει, ἕως Ἰστροιο μέγαν ῥόον εἰσαφίκοντο.

Κόλχοι δ' αὐτ' ἄλλοι μὲν, ἐτώσια μαστεύοντες,
 Κυανέας Πόντοιο διέκ πέτρας ἐπέρησαν·
 ἄλλοι δ' αὖ ποταμὸν μετεκίαθον, οἷσιν ἄνασσεν
 Ἄψυρτος, Καλὸν δὲ διὰ στόμα πείρε λιασθεῖς.
 τῷ καὶ ὑπέφθη τούσγε βαλὼν ὕπερ αὐχένα γαίης
 κόλπον ἔσω πόντοιο πανέσχατον Ἰουίοιο.

Ἰστρῳ γάρ τις νῆσος ἐέργεται οὖνομα Πεύκη,
 τριγλώχιν, εὖρος μὲν ἐς αἰγιαλοὺς ἀνέχουσα, 310
 στεῖνον δ' αὐτ' ἀγκῶνα ποτὶ ῥόον· ἀμφὶ δὲ δοιαί
 σχίζονται προχοαί. τὴν μὲν καλέουσι Νάρηκος·
 τὴν δ' ὑπὸ τῇ νεάτῃ, Καλὸν στόμα. τῇ δὲ διαπρὸ
 Ἄψυρτος Κόλχοι τε θοώτερον ὠρμήθησαν·
 οἱ δ' ὑψοῦ νήσοιο κατ' ἀκροτάτης ἐνέοντο
 τηλόθεν. εἰαμενήσι δ' ἐν ἄσπετα πῶεα λείπον
 ποιμένες ἄγραυλοι νηῶν φόβῳ, οἷά τε θήρας
 ὁσσόμενοι πόντου μεγακήτεος ἐξανιόντας.
 οὐ γάρ πω ἀλίας γε πάρος ποθὶ νῆας ἴδοντο,
 οὔτ' οὖν Θρήξιν μιγάδες Σκύθαι, οὐδὲ Σίγυννοι, 320

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

south into a deep gulf that bends upwards from the Trinacrian sea, that sea which lies along your land, if indeed Achelous flows forth from your land."

Thus he spake, and to them the goddess granted a happy portent, and all at the sight shouted approval, that this was their appointed path. For before them appeared a trail of heavenly light, a sign where they might pass. And gladly they left behind there the son of Lycus and with canvas outspread sailed over the sea, with their eyes on the Paphlagonian mountains. But they did not round Carambis, for the winds and the gleam of the heavenly fire stayed with them, till they reached Ister's mighty stream.

Now some of the Colchians, in a vain search, passed out from Pontus through the Cyanean rocks; but the rest went to the river, and them Apsyrtus led, and, turning aside, he entered the mouth called Fair. Wherefore he outstripped the heroes by crossing a neck of land into the furthest gulf of the Ionian sea. For a certain island is enclosed by Ister, by name Peuce, three-cornered, its base stretching along the coast, and with a sharp angle towards the river; and round it the outfall is cleft in two. One mouth they call the mouth of Narex, and the other, at the lower end, the Fair mouth. And through this Apsyrtus and his Colchians rushed with all speed; but the heroes went upwards far away towards the highest part of the island. And in the meadows the country shepherds left their countless flocks for dread of the ships, for they deemed that they were beasts coming forth from the monster-teeming sea. For never yet before had they seen seafaring ships, neither the Scythians mingled with the Thracians, nor the

οὐτ' οὖν Γραυκένιοι, οὐθ' οἱ περὶ Λαύριον ἤδη
 Σινδοὶ ἐρημαῖον πεδῖον μέγα ναιετάοντες.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ τ' Ἄγγουρον ὄρος, καὶ ἄπωθεν ἑόντα
 Ἄγγούρου ὄρεος σκόπελον πάρα Καυλιακοῦ,¹
 ᾧ πέρι δὴ σχίζων Ἰστρος ῥόον ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 βάλλει ἁλός, πεδῖον τε τὸ Λαύριον ἡμείψαντο,
 δὴ ῥα τότε Κρονίην Κόλχοι ἄλαδ' ἐκπρομολόντες
 πάντη, μὴ σφε λάθοιεν, ὑπετμήξαντο κελεύθους.
 οἱ δ' ὄπιθεν ποταμοῖο κατήλυθον, ἐκ δ' ἐπέρησαν
 δοιὰς Ἀρτέμιδος Βρυγηίδας ἀγχόθι νήσους.
 τῶν δ' ἦτοι ἑτέρη μὲν ἐν ἱερὸν ἔσκειν ἔδεθλον·
 ἐν δ' ἑτέρη, πληθὺν πεφυλαγμένοι Ἀψύρτοιο,
 βαῖνον· ἐπεὶ κείνας πολέων λίπον ἔνδοθι νήσους
 αὐτῶς, ἀζόμενοι κούρην Διός· αἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
 στεινόμεναι Κόλχοισι πόρους εἵρυντο θαλάσσης.
 ὥς δὲ καὶ εἰς ἄλλας² πληθὺν λίπεν ἀγχόθι νήσους
 μέσφα Σαλαγγῶνος ποταμοῦ καὶ Νέστιδος αἴης.

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Ἐνθα κε λευγαλέη Μινύαι τότε δημοτῆτι
 παυρότεροι πλεόνεσσιν ὑπείκαθον· ἀλλὰ πάροιθεν
 συνθεσίνην, μέγα νεῖκος ἀλευάμενοι, ἐτάμοντο·
 κῶας μὲν χρύσειον, ἐπεὶ σφισιν αὐτὸς ὑπέστη
 Αἰήτης, εἰ κείνοι ἀναπλήσειαν ἀέθλους,
 ἔμπεδον εὐδικίῃ σφέας ἐξέμεν, εἴτε δόλοισιν,
 εἴτε καὶ ἀμφαδίην αὐτῶς ἀέκοντος ἀπηύρων·
 αὐτὰρ Μήδειάν γε—τὸ γὰρ πέλεν ἀμφήριστον—
 παρθέσθαι κούρην Λητωίδι νόσφιν ὀμίλου,
 εἰσόκε τις δικάσῃσι θεμιστοῦχων βασιλίων,
 εἴτε μιν εἰς πατρός χρεῖω δόμον αὖτις ἰκάνειν,
 εἴτε μεθ' Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἀριστήεσσιν ἔπεσθαι.

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¹ Καυλιακοῦ L by correction, and a variant in scholia : see also Steph. Byz. under Καυλικοί : Καυκασιοῦ LG.

² ἅκτ' two inferior MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

Sigynni, nor yet the Graucenii, nor the Sindi that now inhabit the vast desert plain of Laurium. But when they had passed near the mount Angurum, and the cliff of Cauliacus, far from the mount Angurum, round which Ister, dividing his stream, falls into the sea on this side and on that, and the Laurian plain, then indeed the Colchians went forth into the Cronian sea and cut off all the ways, to prevent their foes' escape. And the heroes came down the river behind and reached the two Brygean isles of Artemis near at hand. Now in one of them was a sacred temple; and on the other they landed, avoiding the host of Apsyrtus; for the Colchians had left these islands out of many within the river, just as they were, through reverence for the daughter of Zeus; but the rest, thronged by the Colchians, barred the ways to the sea. And so on other islands too, close by, Apsyrtus left his host as far as the river Salangon and the Nestian land.

There the Minyae would at that time have yielded in grim fight, a few to many; but ere then they made a covenant, shunning a dire quarrel; as to the golden fleece, that since Aeetes himself had so promised them if they should fulfil the contests, they should keep it as justly won, whether they carried it off by craft or even openly in the king's despite; but as to Medea—for that was the cause of strife—that they should give her in ward to Leto's daughter apart from the throng, until some one of the kings that dispense justice should utter his doom, whether she must return to her father's home or follow the chieftains to the land of Hellas.

Ἐνθα δ' ἐπεὶ τὰ ἕκαστα νόῳ πεμπάσσατο κούρη, 350
 δὴ ῥά μιν ὀξεῖαι κ'ραδίην ἐλέλιξαν ἀνῖαι
 νωλεμές· αἶψα δὲ νόσφιν Ἰήσονα μῦνον ἐταίρων
 ἐκπροκαλεσσαμένη ἄγειν ἄλλυδιν, ὅφρ' ἐλίσσθην
 πολλὸν ἐκάς, στονύεντα δ' ἐνωπαδὶς ἔκφατο μῦθον·

Ἀἰσονίδη, τίνα τήνδε συναρτύνασθε μενοιγνῆν
 ἄμφ' ἐμοί; ἥέ σε πάγχυ λαθιφροσύναις ἐνέηκαν
 ἀγλαΐαι, τῶν δ' οὔτι μετατρέπη, ὅσ' ἀγόρευες
 χρεοῖ ἐνισχόμενος; ποῦ τοι Διὸς Ἰκεσίοιο
 ὄρκια, ποῦ δὲ μελιχραὶ ὑποσχεσίαι βεβάασιν;
 ἧς ἐγὼ οὐ κατὰ κόσμον ἀναιδήτῳ ἴότητι 360
 πάτρην τε κλέα τε μεγάρων αὐτοὺς τε τοκῆας
 νοσφισάμην, τά μοι ἦεν ὑπέρτατα· τηλόθι δ' οἷη
 λυγρῆσιν κατὰ πόντον ἅμ' ἀλκυόνοισι φορεῦμαι
 σῶν ἔνεκεν καμάτων, ἵνα μοι σόος ἄμφί τε βουσὶν
 ἄμφί τε γηγειέεσσιν ἀναπλήσειας ἀέθλους.
 ὕστατον αὖ καὶ κῶας, ἐπεὶ τ' ἐπαῖστον¹ ἐτύχθη,
 εἶλες ἐμῇ ματίῃ· κατὰ δ' οὐλοδὸν αἰσχος ἔχευα
 θηλυτέrais. τῷ φημὶ τεῇ κούρη τε δῖμαρ τε
 αὐτοκασιγνήτη τε μεθ' Ἑλλάδα γαῖαν ἔπεσθαι.
 πάντη νυν πρόφρων ὑπερίστασο, μηδέ με μούνην 370
 σείο λίπης ἀπάνευθεν, ἐποιχόμενος βασιλῆας.
 ἀλλ' αὐτῶς εἴρυσσο· δίκη δέ τοι ἔμπεδος ἔστω
 καὶ θέμις, ἣν ἄμφω συναρέσσαμεν· ἥ σύγ' ἔπειτα
 φασγάνῳ αὐτίκα τόνδε μέσον διὰ λαιμὸν ἀμῆσαι.
 ὅφρ' ἐπίηρα φέρωμαι ἐοικότα μαργοσύνησιν.
 σχετλίη, εἴ κεν δὴ με κασιγνήτοιο δικάσῃ
 ἔμμεναι οὗτος ἄναξ, τῷ ἐπίσχετε τάσδ' ἀλεγεινὰς
 ἄμφω συνθεσίας. πῶς ἵξομαι ὄμματα πατρός;

¹ ἐπεὶ τ' ἐπαῖστον] ἐφ' ᾧ πλὺτος ὕμνιν the Parisian MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

Now when the maiden had mused upon all this, sharp anguish shook her heart unceasingly; and quickly she called forth Jason alone apart from his comrades, and led him aside until they were far away, and before his face uttered her speech all broken with sobs:

“What is this purpose that ye are now devising about me, O son of Aeson? Has thy triumph utterly cast forgetfulness upon thee, and reckest thou nothing of all that thou spakest when held fast by necessity? whither are fled the oaths by Zeus the suppliants’ god, whither are fled thy honied promises? for which in no seemly wise, with shameless will, I have left my country, the glories of my home and even my parents—things that were dearest to me; and far away all alone I am borne over the sea with the plaintive kingfishers because of thy trouble, in order that I might save thy life in fulfilling the contests with the oxen and the earthborn men. Last of all the fleece—when the matter became known, it was by my folly thou didst win it; and a foul reproach have I poured on womankind. Wherefore I say that as thy child, thy bride and thy sister, I follow thee to the land of Hellas. Be ready to stand by me to the end, abandon me not left forlorn of thee when thou dost visit the kings. But only save me; let justice and right, to which we have both agreed, stand firm; or else do thou at once shear through this neck with the sword, that I may gain the guerdon due to my mad passion. Poor wretch! if the king, to whom you both commit your cruel covenant, doom me to belong to my brother. How shall I come to my father’s sight?

ἦ μάλ' εὐκλείης ; τίνα δ' οὐ τίσιν, ἡὲ βαρεῖαν
 ἄτην οὐ σμυγερώς δεινῶν ὕπερ, οἶα ἔοργα,
 ὀτλήσω ; σὺ δέ κεν θυμηδέα νόστον ἔλοιο ;
 μὴ τόγε παμβασίλεια Διὸς τελέσειεν ἄκοιτις,
 ἦ ἐπικυδιάεις. μνήσαιο δὲ καί ποτ' ἐμεῖο,
 στρευνγόμενος καμάτοισι· δέρος δέ τοι ἴσον ὀνείροις
 οἴχοιτ' εἰς ἔρεβος μεταμώνιον. ἐκ δέ σε πάτρης
 αὐτίκ' ἐμαί σ' ἐλάσειαν Ἑρινύες· οἶα καὶ αὐτὴ
 σῇ πάθον ἀτροπίη. τὰ μὲν οὐ θέμις ἀκράαντα
 ἐν γαίῃ πεσέειν. μάλα γὰρ μέγαν ἦλιτες ὄρκον,
 νηλεές· ἀλλ' οὐ θῆν μοι ἐπιλλίζοντες ὀπίσσω
 δὴν ἔσσεσθ' εὐκηλοὶ ἑκητί γε συνθεσιάνων.³⁸⁰

Ὡς φάτ' ἀναζείουσα¹ βαρὺν χόλον· ἴετο δ' ἤγε
 νῆα καταφλέξει, διὰ τ' ἔμπεδα πάντα κεάσσαι,
 ἐν δὲ πεσεῖν αὐτὴ μαλερῶ πυρί. τοῖα δ' Ἰήσων
 μελιχίοις ἐπέεσσιν ὑποδδείσας προσέειπεν·

Ἵσχεο, δαιμονίη· τὰ μὲν ἀνδάνει οὐδ' ἐμοὶ αὐτῷ.
 ἀλλὰ τιν' ἀμβολίην διζήμεθα δημοτῆτος,
 ὅσσον δυσμενέων ἀνδρῶν νέφος ἀμφιδέδην
 εἵνεκα σεῦ. πάντες γάρ, ὅσοι χθόνα τήνδε νέμονται,
 Ἀψύρτῳ μεμάασιν ἀμυνέμεν, ὄφρα σε πατρί,
 οἶά τε ληισθεῖσαν, ὑπότροπον οἴκαδ' ἄγοιτο.³⁹⁰
 αὐτοὶ δὲ στυγερῶ κεν ὀλοίμεθα πάντες ὀλέθρῳ,
 μίξαντες δαὶ χεῖρας· ὅ τοι καὶ ῥίγιον ἄλγος
 ἔσσεται, εἰ σε θανόντες ἔλωρ κείνοισι λίποιμεν.
 ἦδε δὲ συνθεσίῃ κρανέει δόλον, ᾧ μιν ἐς ἄτην
 βήσομεν. οὐδ' ἂν ὁμῶς περιναίεται ἀντιώσιν
 Κόλχοις ἦρα φέροντες ὑπὲρ σέο νόσφιν ἀνακτος.

¹ ἀναζείουσα Ruhnken : ἀνιάζουσα MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

Will it be with a good name? What revenge, what heavy calamity shall I not endure in agony for the terrible deeds I have done? And wilt thou win the return that thy heart desires? Never may Zeus' bride, the queen of all, in whom thou dost glory, bring that to pass. Mayst thou some time remember me when thou art racked with anguish; may the fleece like a dream vanish into the nether darkness on the wings of the wind! And may my avenging Furies forthwith drive thee from thy country, for all that I have suffered through thy cruelty! These curses will not be allowed to fall unaccomplished to the ground. A mighty oath hast thou transgressed, ruthless one; but not long shalt thou and thy comrades sit at ease casting eyes of mockery upon me, for all your covenants."

Thus she spake, seething with fierce wrath; and she longed to set fire to the ship and to hew it utterly in pieces, and herself to fall into the raging flame. But Jason, half afraid, thus addressed her with gentle words:

"Forbear, lady; me too this pleases not. But we seek some respite from battle, for such a cloud of hostile men, like to a fire, surrounds us, on thy account. For all that inhabit this land are eager to aid Apsyrtus, that they may lead thee back home to thy father, like some captured maid. And all of us would perish in hateful destruction, if we closed with them in fight; and bitterer still will be the pain, if we are slain and leave thee to be their prey. But this covenant will weave a web of guile to lead him to ruin. Nor will the people of the land for thy sake oppose us, to favour the Colchians, when their

ὅς τοι ἄοσσητήρ τε κασίγνητός τε τέτυκται·
οὐδ' ἂν ἐγὼ Κόλχοισιν ὑπείξω μὴ πολεμίζειν
ἀντιβίην, ὅτε μή με διέξ εἰῶσι νέεσθαι.'

Ἴσκειν ὑποσσαίνων· ἡ δ' οὐλοδὸν ἔκφατο μῦθον· 410
'Φράζεο νῦν. χρεῖῳ γὰρ ἁεικελίοισιν ἐπ' ἔργοις
καὶ τόδε μητίσασθαι, ἐπεὶ τὸ πρῶτον ἄασθην
ἀμπλακίῃ, θεόθεν δὲ κακὰς ἤνυσσα μενοινάς.
τὴν μὲν κατὰ μῶλον ἀλέξω δούρατα Κόλχων·
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ κεινόν γε τεὰς ἐς χεῖρας ἰκέσθαι
μειλίξω· σὺ δέ μιν παιδροῖς ἀγαπάξω δώροις·
εἴ κέν πως κήρυκας ἀπερχομένους πεπίθοιμι
οἴοθεν οἶον ἐμοῖσι συναρθμῆσαι ἐπέεσσιν.
ἔνθ' εἴ τοι τόδε ἔργον ἐφاندάνει, οὔτι μεγάίρω,
κτείνέ τε, καὶ Κόλχοισιν ἀείρεο δηιοτήτα.'

ᾧ τῷ γε ξυμβάντε μέγαν δόλον ἠρτύνοντο
'Ἀψύρτῳ, καὶ πολλὰ πόρον ξεινήια δῶρα,
οἷς μέτα καὶ πέπλον δόσαν ἱερὸν Ὑψιπυλείης
πορφύρεον. τὸν μὲν ῥα Διωνύσῳ κάμον αὐταὶ
Δίῃ ἐν ἀμφιάλῳ Χάριτες θεαί· αὐτὰρ ὁ παιδὶ
δῶκε Θόαντι μεταὔτις· ὁ δ' αὖ λίπεν Ὑψιπυλείῃ·
ἡ δ' ἔπορ' Αἰσονίδῃ πολέσιν μετὰ καὶ τὸ φέρεσθαι
γλήνεσιν εὐεργές ξεινήιον. οὐ μιν ἀφάσσω,
οὔτε κεν εἰσορόων γλυκὺν ἥμερον ἐμπλήσειας.
τοῦ δὲ καὶ ἀμβροσίῃ ὁδμῇ πέλεν ἐξέτι κείνου, 430
ἐξ οὗ ἄναξ αὐτὸς Νυσήιος ἐγκατέλεκτο
ἀκροχάλιξ οἴνῳ καὶ νέκταρι, καλὰ μεμαρπὼς
στήθεα παρθενικῆς Μινωίδος, ἣν ποτε Θησεὺς
Κνωσσόθεν ἐσπομένην Δίῃ ἐνὶ κάλλιπε νήσῳ.
ἡ δ' ὅτε κηρύκεσσιν ἐπεξυνώσατο μύθους,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

prince is no longer with them, who is thy champion and thy brother; nor will I shrink from matching myself in fight with the Colchians, if they bar my way homeward."

Thus he spake soothing her; and she uttered a deadly speech: "Take heed now. For when sorry deeds are done we must needs devise sorry counsel, since at first I was distraught by my error, and by heaven's will it was I wrought the accomplishment of evil desires. Do thou in the turmoil shield me from the Colchians' spears; and I will beguile Apsyrtus to come into thy hands—do thou greet him with splendid gifts—if only I could persuade the heralds on their departure to bring him alone to hearken to my words. Thereupon if this deed pleases thee, slay him and raise a conflict with the Colchians, I care not."

So they two agreed and prepared a great web of guile for Apsyrtus, and provided many gifts such as are due to guests, and among them gave a sacred robe of Hypsipyle, of crimson hue. The Graces with their own hands had wrought it for Dionysus in sea-girt Dia, and he gave it to his son Thoas thereafter, and Thoas left it to Hypsipyle, and she gave that fair-wrought guest-gift with many another marvel to Aeson's son to wear. Never couldst thou satisfy thy sweet desire by touching it or gazing on it. And from it a divine fragrance breathed from the time when the king of Nysa himself lay to rest thereon, flushed with wine and nectar, as he clasped the beauteous breast of the maiden-daughter of Minos, whom once Theseus forsook in the island of Dia, when she had followed him from Knossus. And when she had worked upon the

θελγόμεν, εὐτ' ἂν πρῶτα θεᾶς περὶ νηὸν ἵκηται
 συνθεσίῃ, νυκτός τε μέλαν κνέφας ἀμφιβάλησιν,
 ἐλθέμεν, ὅφρα δόλον συμφράσσεται, ὥς κεν ἐλοῦσα
 χρύσειον μέγα κῶας ὑπότροπος αὐτὶς ὀπίσσω
 βαίῃ ἐς Αἰήταο δόμους· περὶ γάρ μιν ἀνάγκη
 44
 νιῆς Φρίξιοι δόσαν ξείνοισιν ἄγεσθαι·
 τοῖα παραιφάμενη θελκτήρια φάρμακ' ἔπασσεν
 αἰθέρι καὶ πνοιῇσι, τὰ κεν καὶ ἄπωθεν ἔοντα
 ἄγριον ἡλιβάτοιο κατ' οὖρεος ἤγαγε θήρα.

Σχέτλι' Ἔρωσ, μέγα πῆμα, μέγα στύγος ἀνθρώ-
 ποισιν,

ἐκ σέθεν οὐλόμεναί τ' ἔριδες στοναχαί τε γόοι τε,
 ἄλγεά τ' ἄλλ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἀπείρονα τετρήχασιν.
 δυσμενέων ἐπὶ παισὶ κορύσσεο, δαῖμον, ἀερθεῖς,
 οἶος Μηδείῃ στυγερὴν φρεσὶν ἔμβαλες ἄτην.
 πῶς γὰρ δὴ μετιόντα κακῶ ἐδάμασσεν ὀλέθρῳ
 45
 Ἄψυρτον; τὸ γὰρ ἡμῖν ἐπισχερῶ ἦεν ἀοιδῆς.

Ἦμος ὅτ' Ἀρτέμιδος νήσῳ ἐνὶ τήνγ' ἐλίποντο
 συνθεσίῃ, τοὶ μὲν ῥα διάνδιχα νηυσὶν ἔκελσαν
 σφωιτέραις κρινθέντες· ὁ δ' ἐς λόχον ἦεν Ἰήσων
 δέγμενος Ἄψυρτόν τε καὶ οὖς ἐξαυτὶς ἐταίρους.
 αὐτὰρ ὅγ' αἰνοτάτησιν ὑποσχεσίῃσι δολωθεὶς
 καρπαλίμως ἥ νηὶ διέξ ἄλὸς οἶδμα περήσας,
 νύχθ' ὑπο λυγαίην ἱερῆς ἐπεβήσατο νήσου·
 οἶόθι δ' ἀντικρὺ μετιῶν πειρήσατο μύθοις
 46
 εἶο κασιγνήτης, ἀταλὸς πάϊς οἶα χαράδρης
 χειμερίης, ἣν οὐδὲ δι' αἰζηοὶ περώωσιν,
 εἴ κε δόλον ξείνοισιν ἐπ' ἀνδράσι τεχνήσαιτο.
 καὶ τῷ μὲν τὰ ἕκαστα συνήνεον ἀλλήλοισιν·
 αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδης πυκινοῦ ἐξᾶλτο λόχοιο,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

heralds to induce her brother to come, as soon as she reached the temple of the goddess, according to the agreement, and the darkness of night surrounded them, that so she might devise with him a cunning plan for her to take the mighty fleece of gold and return to the home of Aeetes, for, she said, the sons of Phrixus had given her by force to the strangers to carry off; with such beguiling words she scattered to the air and the breezes her witching charms, which even from afar would have drawn down the savage beast from the steep mountain-height.

Ruthless Love, great bane, great curse to mankind, from thee come deadly strifes and lamentations and groans, and countless pains as well have their stormy birth from thee. Arise, thou god, and arm thyself against the sons of our foes in such guise as when thou didst fill Medea's heart with accursèd madness. How then by evil doom did she slay Apsyrtus when he came to meet her? For that must our song tell next.

When the heroes had left the maiden on the island of Artemis, according to the covenant, both sides ran their ships to land separately. And Jason went to the ambush to lie in wait for Apsyrtus and then for his comrades. But he, beguiled by these dire promises, crossed the swell of the sea in his ship, and in the darkness of night set foot on the sacred island; and faring all alone to meet her he made trial in speech of his sister, as a tender child tries a wintry torrent which not even strong men can pass through, to see if she would devise some guile against the strangers. And so they two agreed together on everything; and straightway Aeson's

γυμνὸν ἀνασχόμενος παλάμη ξίφος· αἶψα δὲ κούρη
 ἔμπαλιν ὄμματ' ἔνεικε, καλυψαμένη ὀθόνησιν,
 μὴ φόνον ἀθρήσειε κασιγνήτοιο τυπέντος.
 τὸν δ' ὄγε, βουτύπος ὥστε μέγαν κερεαλκέα ταῦρον,
 πληῆξεν ὀπιπεύσας νηοῦ σχεδόν, ὃν ποτ' ἔδειμαν
 Ἀρτέμιδι Βρυγοὶ περιναίεται ἀντιπέρηθεν. 470
 τοῦ ὅγ' ἐνὶ προδόμῳ γυνὴ ἤριπε· λοίσθια δ' ἤρως
 θυμὸν ἀναπνείων χερσὶν μέλαν ἀμφοτέρησιν
 αἶμα κατ' ὠτειλὴν ὑποίσχετο· τῆς δὲ καλύπτρην
 ἀργυφέην καὶ πέπλον ἀλευομένης ἐρύθηνεν.
 ὁξὺ δὲ πανδαμάτωρ λοξῶ ἶδεν οἶον ἔρεξαν
 ὄμματι νηλειῆς ὀλοφώιον ἔργον Ἐρινύς.
 ἤρως δ' Αἰσονίδης ἐξάργματα τάμνε θανόντος,
 τρὶς δ' ἀπέλειξε φόνου, τρὶς δ' ἐξ ἄγος ἔπτυσ'
 ὀδόντων,

ἢ θέμις αὐθέντησι δολοκτασίας ἰλάεσθαι.
 ὑγρὸν δ' ἐν γαίῃ κρύψεν νέκυν, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ 480
 κείται ὅστέα κεῖνα μετ' ἀνδράσιν Ἀψυρτεῦσιν.

Οἱ δ' ἄμυδις πυρσοῖο σέλας προπάρειθεν ἰδόντες,
 τό σφιν παρθενικὴ τέκμαρ μετιοῦσιν ἄειρεν,
 Κολχίδος ἀγχόθι νηὸς ἐὴν παρὰ νῆα βάλοντο
 ἤρωες· Κόλχον δ' ὄλεον στόλον, ἡύτε κίρκοι
 φύλα πελειάων, ἡὲ μέγα πῶν λέοντες
 ἀγρότεροι κλονέουσιν ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσι θορόντες.
 οὐδ' ἄρα τις κείνων θάνατον φύγε, πάντα δ' ὄμιλοι
 πῦρ ἄτε δηιόωντες ἐπέδραμον· ὁψέ δ' Ἰήσων
 ἦντησεν, μεμαῶς ἐπαμυνέμεν οὐ μάλ' ἀρωγῆς 490
 δευομένοις· ἦδη δὲ καὶ ἀμφ' αὐτοῖο μέλοντο.
 ἔνθα δὲ ναυτιλίας πυκινὴν περὶ μητιάσκειν

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son leapt forth from the thick ambush, lifting his bare sword in his hand; and quickly the maiden turned her eyes aside and covered them with her veil that she might not see the blood of her brother when he was smitten. And Jason marked him and struck him down, as a butcher strikes down a mighty strong-horned bull, hard by the temple which the Brygi on the mainland opposite had once built for Artemis. In its vestibule he fell on his knees; and at last the hero breathing out his life caught up in both hands the dark blood as it welled from the wound; and he dyed with red his sister's silvery veil and robe as she shrank away. And with swift side-glance the irresistible pitiless Fury beheld the deadly deed they had done. And the hero, Aeson's son, cut off the extremities of the dead man, and thrice licked up some blood and thrice spat the pollution from his teeth, as it is right for the slayer to do, to atone for a treacherous murder. And the clammy corpse he hid in the ground where even now those bones lie among the Apsyrrians.

Now as soon as the heroes saw the blaze of a torch, which the maiden raised for them as a sign to pursue, they laid their own ship near the Colchian ship, and they slaughtered the Colchian host, as kites slay the tribes of wood-pigeons, or as lions of the wold, when they have leapt amid the steading, drive a great flock of sheep huddled together. Nor did one of them escape death, but the heroes rushed upon the whole crew, destroying them like a flame; and at last Jason met them, and was eager to give aid where none was needed; but already they were taking thought for him too. Thereupon they sat to devise some prudent counsel for their voyage,

ἐξόμενοι βουλήν· ἐπὶ δέ σφισιν ἤλυθε κούρη
φραζομένοις· Πηλεὺς δὲ παροίτατος ἔκφατο μῦθον·

“Ἦδη νῦν κέλομαι νύκτωρ ἔτι νῆ’ ἐπιβάντας
εἶρεσίῃ περάαν πλόον ἀντίον, ᾧ ἐπέχουσιν
δήιοι· ἠῶθεν γὰρ ἐπαθρήσαντας ἕκαστα
ἔλπομαι οὐχ ἓνα μῦθον, ὅτις προτέρωσε δίεσθαι
ἡμέας ὀτρυνέει, τοὺς πεισέμεν· οἶα δ’ ἄνακτος
εὐνίδες, ἀργαλέησι διχοστασίης κεδόωνται.
ῥηιδίῃ δέ κεν ἄμμι, κεδασθέντων δίχα λαῶν,
ἥδ’ εἴῃ μετέπειτα κατερχομένοισι κελευθος.”

500

“Ὡς ἔφατ’· ἤνησαν δὲ νέοι ἔπος Αἰακίδαο.
ρίμφα δὲ νῆ’ ἐπιβάντες ἐπερρώοντ’ ἐλάττησιν
νωλεμές, ὅφρ’ ἱερὴν Ἥλεκτρίδα νῆσον ἵκοντο,
ἀλλάων ὑπάτην, ποταμοῦ σχεδὸν Ἡριδανοῖο.

Κόλχοι δ’ ὀππότη’ ὄλεθρον ἐπεφράσθησαν
ἄνακτος,

ἦτοι μὲν δίξεσθαι ἐπέχραον ἔνδοθι πάσης
Ἄργῳ καὶ Μινύας Κρονίης ἁλός· ἀλλ’ ἀπέρυκεν
Ἥρῃ σμερδαλέῃσι κατ’ αἰθέρος ἀστεροπῆσιν.

510

ὑστατον αὐτοὶ δ’ αὐτε Κυταΐδος ἠθεα γαίης
στύξαν, ἀτυζόμενοι χόλον ἄγριον Αἰήταο,
ἔμπεδα δ’ ἄλλυδιδι ἄλλοι ἐφορμηθέντες ἔνασθαι.
οἱ μὲν ἐπ’ αὐτάων νήσων ἔβαν, ἦσιν ἐπέσχον
ἥρωες, ναίουσι δ’ ἐπώνυμοι Ἀψύρτοιο·

οἱ δ’ ἄρ’ ἐπ’ Ἰλλυρικοῖο μελαμβαθέος ποταμοῖο,
τύμβος ἱν’ Ἀρμονίης Κάδμοιό τε, πύργον ἔδειμαν,
ἀνδράσιν Ἐγχελέεσσιν ἐφέστιοι· οἱ δ’ ἐν ὄρεσσιν
ἐνναίουσιν, ἅπερ τε Κεραύνια κικλήσκονται,
ἐκ τόθεν, ἐξότε τούσγε Διὸς Κρονίδαο κεραυνοὶ
νῆσον ἐς ἀντιπέραιαν ἀπέτραπον ὀρμηθῆναι.

520

Ἥρωες δ’, ὅτε δὴ σφιν εἴσατο νόστος ἀπήμων,
δὴ ῥα τότε προμολόντες ἐπὶ χθονὶ πείσματ’ ἔδησαν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

and the maiden came upon them as they pondered, but Peleus spake his word first :

“ I now bid you embark while it is still night, and take with your oars the passage opposite to that which the enemy guards, for at dawn when they see their plight I deem that no word urging to further pursuit of us will prevail with them ; but as people bereft of their king, they will be scattered in grievous dissension. And easy, when the people are scattered, will this path be for us on our return.”

Thus he spake ; and the youths assented to the words of Aeacus' son. And quickly they entered the ship, and toiled at their oars unceasingly until they reached the sacred isle of Electra, the highest of them all, near the river Eridanus.

But when the Colchians learnt the death of their prince, verily they were eager to pursue Argo and the Minyans through all the Cronian sea. But Hera restrained them by terrible lightnings from the sky. And at last they loathed their own homes in the Cytaean land, quailing before Aeetes' fierce wrath ; so they landed and made abiding homes there, scattered far and wide. Some set foot on those very islands where the heroes had stayed, and they still dwell there, bearing a name derived from Apsyrtus ; and others built a fenced city by the dark deep Illyrian river, where is the tomb of Harmonia and Cadmus, dwelling among the Encheleans ; and others live amid the mountains which are called the Thunderers, from the day when the thunders of Zeus, son of Cronos, prevented them from crossing over to the island opposite.

Now the heroes, when their return seemed safe for them, fared onward and made their hawsers fast

Ἑλλήων. νῆσοι γὰρ ἐπιπρούχοντο θαμειαὶ
 ἀργαλέην πλώουσιν ὁδὸν μεσσηγὺς ἔχουσαι.
 οὐδέ σφιν, ὥς καὶ πρὶν, ἀνάρσια μητιάσκον
 Ἑλλῆες· πρὸς δ' αὐτοὶ ἐμμηχανόωντο κέλευθον,
 μισθὸν ἀειρόμενοι τρίποδα μέγαν Ἀπόλλωνος.
 δοιοὺς γὰρ τρίποδας τηλοῦ πόρε Φοῖβος ἄγεσθαι
 Αἰσονίδη περόωντι κατὰ χρέος, ὅππότε Πυθῶ
 530 ἱρὴν πευσόμενος μετεκίαθε τῆσδ' ὑπὲρ αὐτῆς
 ναυτιλίας· πέπρωτο δ', ὅπη χθονὸς ἰδρυνθεῖεν,
 μήποτε τὴν δηοισιν ἀναστήσεσθαι ἰοῦσιν.
 τούνεκεν εἰσέτι νῦν κείνη ὁδε κεύθεται αἶη
 ἀμφὶ πόλιν ἀγανὴν Ἑλληίδα, πολλὸν ἔνερθεν
 οὔδεος, ὥς κεν ἄφαντος αἰεὶ μερόπεσσι πέλοιτο.
 οὐ μὲν ἔτι ζῶοντα καταυτόθι τέτμον ἄνακτα
 Ἕλλον, ὃν εὐειδὴς Μελίτη τέκεν Ἡρακλῆι
 δῆμῳ Φαιήκων. ὁ γὰρ οἰκία Ναυσιθόοιο
 Μάκριν τ' εἰσαφίκανε, Διωνύσοιο τιθήνην,
 540 νιψόμενος παίδων ὁλοὸν φόνον· ἔνθ' ὄγε κούρην
 Αἰγαίου ἐδάμασσεν ἐρασσάμενος ποταμοῖο,
 νηιάδα Μελίτην· ἥ δὲ σθεναρὸν τέκεν Ἕλλον.¹
 οὐδ' ἄρ' ὄγ' ἠβήσας αὐτῇ ἐνὶ ἔλδετο νήσω
 ναίειν, κοιρανέοντος ἐπ' ὀφρύσι Ναυσιθόοιο·
 βῆ δ' ἄλαδε Κρονίην, αὐτόχθοια λαὸν ἀγείρας
 Φαιήκων· σὺν γάρ οἱ ἄναξ πόρσυνε κέλευθον
 ἥρως Ναυσίθοος· τόθι δ' εἵσατο, καὶ μιν ἔπεφνον
 550 Μέντορες, ἀγραύλοισιν ἀλεξόμενον περὶ βουσίν.
 Ἀλλά, θεαί, πῶς τῆσδε παρέξ ἰλός, ἀμφὶ τε
 γαίαν

Αὐσονίην νήσους τε Λιγυστίδας, αἱ καλέονται
 Στοιχάδες, Ἀργώης περιώσια σήματα ἱνὸς

¹ After this Brunck introduced two lines.

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to the land of the Hylleans. For the islands lay thick in the river and made the path dangerous for those who sailed thereby. Nor, as aforetime, did the Hylleans devise their hurt, but of their own accord furthered their passage, winning as guerdon a mighty tripod of Apollo. For tripods twain had Phoebus given to Aeson's son to carry afar in the voyage he had to make, at the time when he went to sacred Pytho to enquire about this very voyage; and it was ordained by fate that in whatever land they should be placed, that land should never be ravaged by the attacks of foemen. Therefore even now this tripod is hidden in that land near the pleasant city of Hyllus, far beneath the earth, that it may ever be unseen by mortals. Yet they found not King Hyllus still alive in the land, whom fair Melite bare to Heracles in the land of the Phaeacians. For he came to the abode of Nausithous and to Macris, the nurse of Dionysus, to cleanse himself from the deadly murder of his children; here he loved and overcame the water nymph Melite, the daughter of the river Aegaeus, and she bare mighty Hyllus. But when he had grown up he desired not to dwell in that island under the rule of Nausithous the king; but he collected a host of native Phaeacians and came to the Cronian sea; for the hero King Nausithous aided his journey, and there he settled, and the Mentores slew him as he was fighting for the oxen of his field.

Now, goddesses, say how it is that beyond this sea, near the land of Ausonia and the Ligystian isles, which are called Stoechades, the mighty tracks of the ship Argo are clearly sung of? What great

νημερτὲς πέφαται; τίς ἀπόπροθι τόσσον ἀνάγκη
καὶ χρειώ σφ' ἐκόμισσε; τίνες σφέας ἤγαγον αὔραι;

Αὐτόν που μεγαλωστὶ δεδουπότος Ἀψύρτοιο
Ζῆνα, θεῶν βασιλῆα, χόλος λάβεν, οἶον ἔρεξαν.
Αἰαίης δ' ὅλοον τεκμήρατο δήνεσι Κίρκης
αἶμ' ἀπονιψαμένους, πρό τε μυρία πημανθέντας, 560
νοστήσειν. τὸ μὲν οὔτις ἀριστήων ἐνόησεν·
ἀλλ' ἔθεον γαίης Ὑλληίδος ἐξανιόντες
τηλόθι· τὰς δ' ἀπέλειπον, ὅσαι Κόλχοισι πάροιθεν
ἐξείης πλήθοντο Λιβυρνίδες εἰν ἀλὶ νῆσοι,
Ἴσσα τε Δυσκέλαδός τε καὶ ἱμερτὴ Πιτύεια.
αὐτὰρ ἔπειτ' ἐπὶ τῇσι παρὰ Κέρκυραν ἵκοντο,
ἔνθα Ποσειδάων Ἀσωπίδα νάσσατο κούρην,
ἡύκομον Κέρκυραν, ἐκὰς Φλιουντίδος αἴης,
ἀρπάξας ὑπ' ἔρωτι μελαινομένην δέ μιν ἄνδρες
ναυτίλοι ἐκ πόντοιο κελαινῇ πάντοθεν ὕλη 570
δερκόμενοι Κέρκυραν ἐπικλείουσι Μέλαιναν.
τῇ δ' ἐπὶ καὶ Μελίτην, λιαρῶ περιγηθῆες οὔρῳ,
αἰπεινὴν τε Κερωσσόν, ὕπερθε δὲ πολλὸν ἐούσαν
Νυμφαίην παράμειβον, ἵνα κρείουσα Καλυψὼ
Ἀτλαντὶς ναίεσκε· τὰ δ' ἡρωειδέα λεύσσειν
οὔρεα δοιάζοντο Κεραύνια. καὶ τότε βουλὰς
ἀμφ' αὐτοῖς Ζηνός τε μέγαν χόλον ἐφράσαθ' Ἥρη.
μηδομένη δ' ἄνυσιν τοῖο πλόου, ὥρσεν ἀέλλας
ἀντικρύ, ταῖς αὐτὶς ἀναρπάγδην φορέοντο
νήσου ἐπὶ κραναῆς Ἥλεκτρίδος. αὐτίκα δ' ἄφ' ἱω 580
ἶαχεν ἀνδρομέη ἐνοπῇ μεσσηγὺ θεόντων
αὐδῆεν γλαφυρῆς νηὸς δόρυ, τό ρ' ἀνὰ μέσσην
στεῖραν Ἀθηναίη Δωδωνίδος ἤρμοσε φηγοῦ.
τοὺς δ' ὅλοον μεσσηγὺ δέος λάβεν εἰσαίοντας
φθογγὴν τε Ζηνός τε βαρὺν χόλον. οὐ γὰρ ἀλύξειν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

constraint and need brought the heroes so far?
What breezes wafted them?

When Apsyrtus had fallen in mighty overthrow Zeus himself, king of gods, was seized with wrath at what they had done. And he ordained that by the counsels of Aeaeon Circe they should cleanse themselves from the terrible stain of blood and suffer countless woes before their return. Yet none of the chieftains knew this; but far onward they sped starting from the Hyllean land, and they left behind all the islands that were beforetime thronged by the Colchians—the Liburnian isles, isle after isle, Issa, Dysceladus, and lovely Pityeia. Next after them they came to Corcyra, where Poseidon settled the daughter of Asopus, fair-haired Corcyra, far from the land of Phlius, whence he had carried her off through love; and sailors beholding it from the sea, all black with its sombre woods, call it Corcyra the Black. And next they passed Melite, rejoicing in the soft-blowing breeze, and steep Cerossus, and Nymphaea at a distance, where lady Calypso, daughter of Atlas, dwelt; and they deemed they saw the misty mountains of Thunder. And then Hera bethought her of the counsels and wrath of Zeus concerning them. And she devised an ending of their voyage and stirred up storm-winds before them, by which they were caught and borne back to the rocky isle of Electra. And straightway on a sudden there called to them in the midst of their course, speaking with a human voice, the beam of the hollow ship, which Athena had set in the centre of the stem, made of Dodonian oak. And deadly fear seized them as they heard the voice that told of the grievous wrath of Zeus. For it

ἔννεπεν οὔτε πόρους δολιχῆς ἁλός, οὔτε θυέλλας
ἀργαλέας, ὅτε μὴ Κίρκη φόνον Ἀψύρτοιο
νηλέα νύφειεν· Πολυδεύκεα δ' εὐχετάσθαι
Κάστορά τ' ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖς ἥνωγε κελεύθους
Αὔσονίης ἔμπροσθε πορεῖν ἁλός, ἥ ἔνι Κίρκην
δήουσιν, Πέρσης τε καὶ Ἑελίοιο θύγατρα.

590

ὣς Ἀργῶ ἰάχησεν ὑπὸ κνέφας· οἱ δ' ἀνόρουσαν
Τυνδαρίδαι, καὶ χεῖρας ἀνέσχεθον ἀθανάτοισιν
εὐχόμενοι τὰ ἕκαστα· κατηφείη δ' ἔχεν ἄλλους
ἥρωας Μινύας· ἡ δ' ἔσσυτο πολλὸν ἐπιπρὸ
λαΐφεισιν, ἐς δ' ἔβαλον μύχατον ῥόον Ἑριδανοῖο·
ἔνθα ποτ' αἰθαλόεντι τυπείς πρὸς στέρνα κεραυνῶ
ἡμιδαῆς Φαέθων πέσεν ἄρματος Ἑελίοιο
λίμνης ἐς προχοὰς πολυβενθέος· ἡ δ' ἔτι νῦν περ
τραύματος αἰθομένοιο βαρὺν ἀνακηκίει ἄτμόν.
οὔδέ τις ὕδωρ κείνο διὰ πτερὰ κοῦφα τανύσσας
οἰωνὸς δύναται βαλέειν ὕπερ· ἀλλὰ μεσηγὺς
φλογμῶ ἐπιθρώσκει πεποτημένος· ἀμφὶ δὲ κοῦραι
Ἥλιάδες ταναῆσιν ἐελμέναι αἰγείροισιν,
μύρονται κινυρὸν μέλαι γόον· ἐκ δὲ φαεινὰς
ἠλέκτρον λιβάδας βλεφάρων προχέουσιν ἔραζε,
αἱ μὲν τ' ἠελίῳ ψαμάθοις ἐπὶ τερσαίνονται·
εὖτ' ἂν δὲ κλύξῃσι κελαινῆς ὕδατα λίμνης
ἠϊόνας πνοιῇ πολυηχέος ἐξ ἀνέμοιο,
δὴ τότε ἐς Ἑριδανὸν προκυλίνδεται ἀθρόα πάντα
κυμαίνοντι ῥόῳ· Κελτοὶ δ' ἐπὶ βάζιν ἔθεντο,
ὥς ἄρ' Ἀπόλλωνος τάδε δάκρυα Λητοῖδαο
συμφέρεται δίναις, ἃ τε μυρία χεῦε πάροιθεν,
ἦμος Ὑπερβορέων ἱερὸν γένος εἰσαφίκαθεν,
οὐρανὸν αἰγλήεντα λιπὼν ἐκ πατρὸς ἐνιπῆς,
χωόμενος περὶ παιδί, τὸν ἐν λιπαρῇ Λακερείῃ
διὰ Κορωνίς ἔτικτεν ἐπὶ προχοῇς Ἀμύροιο.

600

610

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

proclaimed that they should not escape the paths of an endless sea nor grievous tempests, unless Circe should purge away the guilt of the ruthless murder of Apsyrtus ; and it bade Polydeuces and Castor pray to the immortal gods first to grant a path through the Ausonian sea where they should find Circe, daughter of Perse and Helios.

Thus Argo cried through the darkness ; and the sons of Tyndareus uprose, and lifted their hands to the immortals praying for each boon : but dejection held the rest of the Minyan heroes. And far on sped Argo under sail, and entered deep into the stream of Eridanus ; where once, smitten on the breast by the blazing bolt, Phaëthon half-consumed fell from the chariot of Helios into the opening of that deep lake ; and even now it belcheth up heavy steam clouds from the smouldering wound. And no bird spreading its light wings can cross that water ; but in mid-course it plunges into the flame, fluttering. And all around the maidens, the daughters of Helios, enclosed in tall poplars, wretchedly wail a piteous plaint ; and from their eyes they shed on the ground bright drops of amber. These are dried by the sun upon the sand ; but whenever the waters of the dark lake flow over the strand before the blast of the wailing wind, then they roll on in a mass into Eridanus with swelling tide. But the Celts have attached this story to them, that these are the tears of Leto's son, Apollo, that are borne along by the eddies, the countless tears that he shed aforetime when he came to the sacred race of the Hyperboreans and left shining heaven at the chiding of his father, being in wrath concerning his son whom divine Coronis bare in bright Lacereia at the mouth

καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς κείνοισι μετ' ἀνδράσι κεκλήσται.
 τοὺς δ' οὔτε βρώμης ἥρει πόθος, οὐδὲ ποτοῖο,
 οὔτ' ἐπὶ γηθοσύνας τράπετο νόος. ἀλλ' ἄρα τοίγε 629
 ἤματα μὲν στρεύγοντο περιβληχρὸν βαρύθοντες
 ὁδμῇ λευγαλή, τήν ῥ' ἄσχετον ἐξανίσκον
 τυφομένου Φαέθοντος ἐπιρροαὶ Ἑριδανοῖο.
 νυκτὸς δ' αὖ γόον ὄξυν ὀδυρομένων ἐσάκουον
 Ἑλιάδων λιγέως· τὰ δὲ δάκρυα μυρομένησιν
 οἶον ἐλαιηραὶ στάγες ὕδασιν ἐμφορέοντο.

Ἐκ δὲ τότεν Ῥοδανοῖο βαθὺν ῥόον εἰσαπέβησαν,
 ὅστ' εἰς Ἑριδανὸν μετανίσσεται· ἄμμιγα δ' ὕδωρ
 ἐν ξυνοχῇ βέβρυχε κυκώμενον. αὐτὰρ ὁ γαίης
 ἐκ μυχάτης, ἵνα τ' εἰσὶ πύλαι καὶ ἐδέθλια Νυκτός, 630
 ἔνθεν ἀπορνύμενος τῇ μὲν τ' ἐπερεύγεται ἀκτὰς
 Ὠκεανοῦ, τῇ δ' αὖτε μετ' Ἰονίην ἅλα βάλλει,
 τῇ δ' ἐπὶ Σαρδόνιον πέλαγος καὶ ἀπείρονα κόλπον
 ἐπτά διὰ στομάτων ἱεὶ ῥόον. ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοῖο
 λίμνας εἰσέλασαν δυσχείμονας, αἵτ' ἀνὰ Κελτῶν
 ἤπειρον πέπτανται ἀθέσφατον· ἔνθα κεν οἷγε
 ἄτῃ ἀεικελὴν πέλασαν· φέρε γάρ τις ἀπορρῶξ
 κόλπον ἐς Ὠκεανοῖο, τὸν οὐ προδαέντες ἔμελλον
 εἰσβαλέειν, τότεν οὐ κεν ὑπότροποι ἐξεσάωθεν.
 ἀλλ' Ἥρῃ σκοπέλοιο καθ' Ἐρκυνίου ἰάχῃσεν 640
 οὐρανόθεν προθοροῦσα· φόβῳ δ' ἐτίναχθεν αὐτῆς
 πάντες ὁμῶς· δεινὸν γὰρ ἐπὶ μέγας ἔβραχεν αἰθήρ.
 ἄψ δὲ παλιντροπόωντο θεᾶς ὕπο, καί ῥ' ἐνόησαν
 τὴν οἶμον, τῇπέρ τε καὶ ἔπλετο νόστος ἰοῦσιν.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

of Amyrus. And such is the story told among these men. But no desire for food or drink seized the heroes nor were their thoughts turned to joy. But they were sorely afflicted all day, heavy and faint at heart, with the noisome stench, hard to endure, which the streams of Eridanus sent forth from Phaëthon still burning; and at night they heard the piercing lament of the daughters of Helios, wailing with shrill voice; and, as they lamented, their tears were borne on the water like drops of oil.

Thence they entered the deep stream of Rhodanus which flows into Eridanus; and where they meet there is a roar of mingling waters. Now that river, rising from the ends of the earth, where are the portals and mansions of Night, on one side bursts forth upon the beach of Ocean, at another pours into the Ionian sea, and on the third through seven mouths sends its stream to the Sardinian sea and its limitless bay.¹ And from Rhodanus they entered stormy lakes, which spread throughout the Celtic mainland of wondrous size; and there they would have met with an inglorious calamity; for a certain branch of the river was bearing them towards a gulf of Ocean which in ignorance they were about to enter, and never would they have returned from there in safety. But Hera leaping forth from heaven pealed her cry from the Hercynian rock; and all together were shaken with fear of her cry; for terribly crashed the mighty firmament. And backward they turned by reason of the goddess, and noted the path by which their return was ordained.

¹ Apollonius seems to have thought that the Po, the Rhone, and the Rhine are all connected together.

δηναιοὶ δ' ἄκτὰς ἄλιμυρέας εἰσαφίκοντο
 Ἥρης ἐννεσίῃσι, δι' ἔθνεα μυρία Κελτῶν
 καὶ Λιγύων περόωντες ἀδῆιοι. ἀμφὶ γὰρ αἰνὴν
 ἡέρα χεῦε θεὰ πάντ' ἡμᾶτα νισσομένοισιν.
 μεσσότατον δ' ἄρα τοίγε διὰ στόμα νηὶ βαλόντες
 Στοιχάδας εἰσαπέβαν νήσους σόοι εἵνεκα κούρων
 Ζηνός· ὃ δὴ βωμοὶ τε καὶ ἱερὰ τοῖσι τέτυκται
 ἔμπεδον· οὐδ' οἶον κείνης ἐπίκουροι ἔποντο
 ναυτιλίας· Ζεὺς δέ σφι καὶ ὀψιγόνων πόρε νῆας.
 Στοιχάδας αὖτε λιπόντες ἐς Αἰθαλίην ἐπέρησαν
 νῆσον, ἵνα ψηφίσιν ἀπωμόρξαντο καμόντες
 ἰδρῶ ἄλιν· χροίῃ δὲ κατ' αἰγιαλοῖο κέχυνται
 εἵκελαι· ἐν δὲ σόλοι καὶ τεύχεα θέσκελα κείνων·
 ἐν δὲ λιμὴν Ἀργῶος ἐπωνυμίην πεφάτισται.

Καρπαλίμως δ' ἐνθένδε διέξ ἁλὸς οἶδμα νέοντο
 Αὐσονίης ἄκτὰς Τυρσηνίδας εἰσορόωντες·
 ἴξον δ' Αἰαίης λιμένα κλυτόν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα νηὸς
 πείσματ' ἐπ' ἡϊόνων σχεδόθεν βάλον· ἐνθα δὲ Κίρκην
 εὗρον ἁλὸς νοτίδεσσι κάρη ἐπιφαιδρύνουσαν·
 τοῖον γὰρ νυχίοισιν ὀνείρασιν ἐπτοίητο.
 αἵματί οἱ θάλαμοί τε καὶ ἔρκεα πάντα δόμοιο
 μύρεσθαι δόκεον· φλόξ δ' ἀθρόα φάρμακ' ἔδαπτει,
 οἷσι πάρος ξείνους θέλγ' ἀνέρας, ὅστις ἴκοιτο·
 τὴν δ' αὐτὴ φονίῳ σβέσεν αἵματι πορφύρουσαν,
 χερσὶν ἀφυσσαμένη· λήξεν δ' ὀλοοῖο φόβοιο.
 τῷ καὶ ἐπιπλομένης ἡοῦς νοτίδεσσι θαλάσσης
 ἐγρομένη πλοκάμους τε καὶ εἵματα φαιδρύνεσκεν.
 θῆρες δ' οὐ θήρεσσιν ἑοικότες ὤμησησιν,

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And after a long while they came to the beach of the surging sea by the devising of Hera, passing unharmed through countless tribes of the Celts and Ligians. For round them the goddess poured a dread mist day by day as they fared on. And so, sailing through the midmost mouth, they reached the Stoechades islands in safety by the aid of the sons of Zeus; wherefore altars and sacred rites are established in their honour for ever; and not that sea-faring alone did they attend to succour; but Zeus granted to them the ships of future sailors too. Then leaving the Stoechades they passed on to the island Aethalia, where after their toil they wiped away with pebbles sweat in abundance; and pebbles like skin in colour are strewn on the beach¹; and there are their quoits and their wondrous armour; and there is the Argoan harbour called after them.

And quickly from there they passed through the sea, beholding the Tyrrhenian shores of Ausonia; and they came to the famous harbour of Aeaea, and from the ship they cast hawsers to the shore near at hand. And here they found Circe bathing her head in the salt sea-spray, for sorely had she been scared by visions of the night. With blood her chambers and all the walls of her palace seemed to be running, and flame was devouring all the magic herbs with which she used to bewitch strangers whoever came; and she herself with murderous blood quenched the glowing flame, drawing it up in her hands; and she ceased from deadly fear. Wherefore when morning came she rose, and with sea-spray was bathing her hair and her garments. And beasts, not resembling

¹ *i.e.* like the scrapings from skin, ἀποστλεγγίσματα; see Strabo p. 224 for this adventure.

οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἄνδρεσσιν ὁμὸν δέμας, ἄλλο δ' ἀπ'
ἄλλων

συμμιγέες μελέων, κίον ἄθροοι, ἥύτε μῆλα
ἐκ σταθμῶν ἄλις εἰσιν ὀπηδεύοντα νομῇ.
τοίους καὶ προτέρης ἐξ ἱλῦος ἐβλάστησε
χθὼν αὐτὴ μικτοῖσιν ἀρηρεμένους μελέεσσιν,
οὐπω διψαλέῳ μάλ' ὑπ' ἡέρι πιληθεῖσα,
οὐδέ πω ἄζαλέοιο βολαῖς τόσον ἡελίοιο
ικμάδας αἰνυμένη· τὰ δ' ἐπὶ στίχας ἤγαγεν αἰὼν
συγκρίνας· τῶς οὔγε φυὴν αἰδήλοισι ἔποντο.
ἥρωας δ' ἔλε θάμβος ἀπείριτον· αἶψα δ' ἕκαστος
Κίρκης εἰς τε φυὴν, εἰς τ' ὄμματα παπταίνοντες
ρεῖα κασιγνήτην φάσαν ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο.

Ἦ δ' ὅτε δὴ νυχίων ἀπὸ δαίματα πέμψεν ὀνειρῶν,
αὐτίκ' ἔπειτ' ἄψορρον ἀπέστιχε· τοὺς δ' ἅμ' ἔπεισθαι,
χειρὶ καταρρέξασα, δολοφροσύνησιν ἄνωγεν.
ἔνθ' ἦτοι πληθὺς μὲν ἐφετμαῖς Αἰσονίδαο
μῖμνεν ἀπηλεγέως· ὁ δ' ἐρύσσατο Κολχίδα κούρην.
ἅμφω δ' ἐσπέσθην αὐτὴν ὁδόν, ἔστ' ἀφίκοντο
Κίρκης ἐς μέγαρον· τοὺς δ' ἐν λιπαροῖσι κέλευεν
ἤγε θρόνοις ἕζεσθαι, ἀμηχανέουσα κιόντων.
τῶ δ' ἄνεω καὶ ἄναυδοι ἐφ' ἐστίῃ αἶξαντε
ἵζανον, ἥτε δίκη λυγροῖς ἰκέτῃσι τέτυκται,
ἢ μὲν ἐπ' ἀμφοτέραις θεμένη χεῖρεσσι μέτωπα,
αὐτὰρ ὁ κωπῆεν μέγα φάσγανον ἐν χθονὶ πῆξας,
ὥπέρ τ' Αἰήταο πᾶιν κτάνεν· οὐδέ ποτ' ὅσσε
ἰθὺς ἐνὶ βλεφάροισιν ἀνέσχεθον· αὐτίκα δ' ἔγνω
Κίρκη φύξιον οἶτον ἀλιτροσύνας τε φόνοιο.
τῶ καὶ ὀπιζομένη Ζηνὸς θέμιν Ἴκεσίοιο,
ὃς μέγα μὲν κοτέει, μέγα δ' ἀνδροφόνοισιν ἀρίγγει,
ρέξε θνηπολὴν, οἷῃ τ' ἀπολυμαίνονται

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

the beasts of the wild, nor yet like men in body, but with a medley of limbs, went in a throng, as sheep from the fold in multitudes follow the shepherd. Such creatures, compacted of various limbs, did earth herself produce from the primeval slime when she had not yet grown solid beneath a rainless sky nor yet had received a drop of moisture from the rays of the scorching sun; but time combined these forms and marshalled them in their ranks; in such wise these monsters shapeless of form followed her. And exceeding wonder seized the heroes, and at once, as each gazed on the form and face of Circe, they readily guessed that she was the sister of Aeetes.

Now when she had dismissed the fears of her nightly visions, straightway she fared backwards, and in her subtlety she bade the heroes follow, charming them on with her hand. Thereupon the host remained stedfast at the bidding of Aeson's son, but Jason drew with him the Colchian maid. And both followed the selfsame path till they reached the hall of Circe, and she in amaze at their coming bade them sit on brightly burnished seats. And they, quiet and silent, sped to the hearth and sat there, as is the wont of wretched suppliants. Medea hid her face in both her hands, but Jason fixed in the ground the mighty hilted sword with which he had slain Aeetes' son; nor did they raise their eyes to meet her look. And straightway Circe became aware of the doom of a suppliant and the guilt of murder. Wherefore in reverence for the ordinance of Zeus, the god of suppliants, who is a god of wrath yet mightily aids slayers of men, she began to offer the sacrifice with which ruthless suppliants are

νηλειεῖς ἰκέται, ὅτ' ἐφέστιοι ἀντιώσιν.

πρῶτα μὲν ἀτρέπτοιο λυτήριον ἤγε φόνοιο
τειναμένη καθύπερθε συὸς τέκος, ἧς ἔτι μαζοὶ
πλήμμυρον λοχίης ἐκ νηδύος, αἵματι χεῖρας
τέγγεν, ἐπιτμήγουσα δέρην· αὖτις δὲ καὶ ἄλλοις
μείλισσεν χύτλοισι, καθάρσιον ἀγκαλέουσα
Ζῆνα, παλαμναίων τιμήορον ἱκεσιάων.

καὶ τὰ μὲν ἀθρόα πάντα δόμων ἐκ λύματ' ἔνεικαν 710

νηιάδες πρόπολοι, ταί οἱ πόρσυνον ἕκαστα.

ἢ δ' εἴσω πελάνους μείλικτρά τε νηφαλίσιν
καῖεν ἐπ' εὐχωλῇσι παρέστις, ὄφρα χόλοιο
σμερδαλέας παύσειεν Ἑρινύας, ἣδὲ καὶ αὐτὸς
εὐμειδής τε πέλοιτο καὶ ἥπιος ἀμφοτέροισιν,
εἴτ' οὖν ὀθνεῖω μεμιασμένοι αἵματι χεῖρας,
εἴτε καὶ ἐμφύλῳ προσκηδέες ἀντιώσιν.

Αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ μάλα πάντα πονήσατο, δὴ τότε ἔπειτα

εἶσεν ἐπὶ ξεστοῖσιν ἀναστήσασα θρόνοισιν,

καὶ δ' αὐτὴ πέλας ἵζεν ἐνωπαδῖς. αἶψα δὲ μύθῳ 720

χρειῶ ναυτιλίην τε διακριδὸν ἐξερέεινεν,

ἣδ' ὀπόθεν μετὰ γαῖαν ἔην καὶ δώματ' ἰόντες

αὐτῶς ἰδρύνθησαν ἐφέστιοι. ἧ γὰρ ὀνείρων

μνήστις ἀεικελὴ δύνειν φρένας ὀρμαίνουσιν·

ἴετο δ' αὖ κούρης ἐμφύλιον ἰδμεναι ὀμφήν,

αὐτίχ' ὅπως ἐνόησεν ἀπ' οὔδεος ὅσσε βαλοῦσαν.

πᾶσα γὰρ Ἡελίου γενεὴ ἀρίδηνος ἰδέσθαι

ἦεν, ἐπεὶ βλεφάρων ἀποτηλόθι μαρμαρυγῇσιν

οἶόν τε χρυσέην ἀντώπιον ἴεσαν αἶγλην.

ἢ δ' ἄρα τῇ τὰ ἕκαστα διειρομένη κατέλεξεν, 730

Κολχίδα γῆρυν ἰεῖσα, βαρύφρονος Αἰήταο

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

cleansed from guilt when they approach the altar. First, to atone for the murder still unexpiated, she held above their heads the young of a sow whose dugs yet swelled from the fruit of the womb, and, severing its neck, sprinkled their hands with the blood; and again she made propitiation with other drink offerings, calling on Zeus the Cleanser, the protector of murder-stained suppliants. And all the defilements in a mass her attendants bore forth from the palace—the Naiad nymphs who ministered all things to her. And within, Circe, standing by the hearth, kept burning atonement-cakes without wine, praying the while that she might stay from their wrath the terrible Furies, and that Zeus himself might be propitious and gentle to them both, whether with hands stained by the blood of a stranger or, as kinsfolk, by the blood of a kinsman, they should implore his grace.

But when she had wrought all her task, then she raised them up and seated them on well polished seats, and herself sat near, face to face with them. And at once she asked them clearly of their business and their voyaging, and whence they had come to her land and palace, and had thus seated themselves as suppliants at her hearth. For in truth the hideous remembrance of her dreams entered her mind as she pondered; and she longed to hear the voice of the maiden, her kinswoman, as soon as she saw that she had raised her eyes from the ground. For all those of the race of Helios were plain to discern, since by the far flashing of their eyes they shot in front of them a gleam as of gold. So Medea told her all she asked—the daughter of Aetes of the gloomy heart, speaking gently in the

κούρη μελιχίως, ἡμὲν στόλον ἡδὲ κελεύθους
 ἡρώων, ὅσα τ' ἀμφὶ θοοῖς ἐμόγησαν ἀέθλοις,
 ὥς τε κασιγνήτης πολυκηδέος ἦλιτε βουλαῖς,
 ὥς τ' ἀπονόσφιν ἄλυσεν ὑπέρβια δείματα πατρὸς
 σὺν παισὶν Φρίξοιο· φόνον δ' ἀλέεινεν ἐνισπεῖν
 Ἀψύρτου. τὴν δ' οὔτι νόω λάθον· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης
 μυρομένην ἐλέαιρεν, ἔπος δ' ἐπὶ τοῖον ἔειπεν·

‘Σχετλίη, ἣ ῥα κακὸν καὶ ἀεικέα μήσαο νόστον.
 ἔλπομαι οὐκ ἐπὶ δὴν σε βαρὺν χόλον Αἰήταο . 740
 ἐκφυγέειν· τάχα δ' εἴσι καὶ Ἑλλάδος ἦθεα γαίης
 τισόμενος φόνον υἱός, ὅτ' ἄσχετα ἔργ' ἐτέλεσσας.
 ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἰκέτις καὶ ὁμόγνιος ἔπλευ ἐμεῖο,
 ἄλλο μὲν οὔτι κακὸν μητίσομαι ἐνθάδ' ἰούσῃ·
 ἔρχεο δ' ἐκ μεγάρων ξείνῳ συνοπηδὸς ἐοῦσα,
 ὄντινα τοῦτον αἶστον αἰείραο πατρὸς ἀνευθεν·
 μηδέ με γουνάσσειαι ἐφέστιος, οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε
 αἰνήσω βουλὰς τε σέθεν καὶ ἀεικέα φύξιν.’

ᾧ φάτο· τὴν δ' ἀμέγαρτον ἄχος λάβεν· ἀμφὶ
 δὲ πέπλον

ὀφθαλμοῖσι βαλοῦσα γόον χέεν, ὅφρα μιν ἦρως . 750
 χειρὸς ἐπισχόμενος μεγάρων ἐξῆγε θύραζε
 δείματι παλλομένην· λείπον δ' ἀπὸ δώματα
 Κίρκης.

Οὐδ' ἄλοχον Κρονίδαο Διὸς λάθον· ἀλλὰ οἱ Ἴρις
 πέφραδεν, εὖτ' ἐνόησεν ἀπὸ μεγάροιο κίοντας.
 αὐτὴ γάρ μιν ἄνωγε δοκευέμεν, ὅππότε νῆα
 στείχοιεν· τὸ καὶ αὐτὶς ἐποτρύνουσ' ἀγόρευεν·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

Colchian tongue, both of the quest and the journeyings of the heroes, and of their toils in the swift contests, and how she had sinned through the counsels of her much-sorrowing sister, and how with the sons of Phrixus she had fled afar from the tyrannous horrors of her father; but she shrank from telling of the murder of Apsyrtus. Yet she escaped not Circe's ken; nevertheless, in spite of all, she pitied the weeping maiden, and spake thus:

"Poor wretch, an evil and shameful return hast thou planned. Not for long, I ween, wilt thou escape the heavy wrath of Aeetes; but soon will he go even to the dwellings of Hellas to avenge the blood of his son, for intolerable are the deeds thou hast done. But since thou art my suppliant and my kinswoman, no further ill shall I devise against thee at thy coming; but begone from my halls, companioning the stranger, whosoever he be, this unknown one that thou hast taken in thy father's despite; and kneel not to me at my hearth, for never will I approve thy counsels and thy shameful flight."

Thus she spake, and measureless anguish seized the maid; and over her eyes she cast her robe and poured forth a lamentation, until the hero took her by the hand and led her forth from the hall quivering with fear. So they left the home of Circe.

But they were not unmarked by the spouse of Zeus, son of Cronos; but Iris told her when she saw them faring from the hall. For Hera had bidden her watch what time they should come to the ship; so again she urged her and spake:

Ἴρι φίλη, νῦν, εἴ ποτ' ἐμὰς ἐτέλεσσας ἐφετμάς,
 εἰ δ' ἄγε λαιψηρῇσι μετοιχομένη πτερύγεσσιν,
 δεῦρο Θέτιν μοι ἄνωχθι μολεῖν ἀλὸς ἐξανιούσαν.
 κείνης γὰρ χρειώ με κιχάνεται. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα 760
 ἐλθεῖν εἰς Ἀκτάς, ὅθι τ' ἄκμονες Ἡφαίστοιο
 χάλκαιοι στιβαρῇσιν ἀράσσονται τυπίδεσσιν·
 εἰπέ δὲ κοιμῆσαι φύσας πυρός, εἰσόκεν Ἀργῷ
 τάσγε παρεξελάσῃσιν. ἀτὰρ καὶ ἐς Αἴολον ἐλθεῖν,
 Αἴολον, ὅστ' ἀνέμοις αἰθρηγενέεσσιν ἀνάσσει·
 καὶ δὲ τῷ εἰπέμεναι τὸν ἐμὸν νόον, ὥς κεν ἀήτας
 πάντας ἀπολλήξειεν ὑπ' ἡέρι, μηδέ τις αὔρη
 τρηχύνοι πέλαγος· ζεφύρου γε μὲν οὔρος ἀήτω,
 ὄφρ' οἴγ' Ἀλκινόου Φαιηκίδα νῆσον ἴκωνται.

Ὡς ἔφατ'· αὐτίκα δ' Ἴρις ἀπ' Οὐλύμποιο θοροῦσα 770
 τέμνε, τανυσσαμένη κοῦφα πτερὰ. δῦ δ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
 Αἰγαίῳ, τόθι πέρ τε δόμοι Νηρῆος ἔασιν.
 πρώτην δ' εἰσαφίκανε Θέτιν, καὶ ἐπέφραδε μῦθον
 Ἥρης ἐννεσίης, ὥρσέν τέ μιν εἰς ἐ νέεσθαι.
 δεύτερα δ' εἰς Ἡφαιστον ἐβήσατο· παῦσε δὲ τόνγε
 ῥίμφα σιδηρείων τυπίδων· ἔσχοντο δ' αὐτμῆς
 αἰθαλέοι πρηστῆρες. ἀτὰρ τρίτον εἰσαφίκανεν
 Αἴολον Ἰππότεω παῖδα κλυτόν. ὄφρα δὲ καὶ τῷ
 ἀγγελίην φαμένη θοὰ γούνατα παῦσεν ὁδοῖο,
 τόφρα Θέτις Νηρῆα κασιγνήτας τε λιποῦσα 780
 ἐξ ἀλὸς Οὐλυμπόνδε θεὰν μετεκίαθεν Ἥρην·
 ἥ δέ μιν ἄσπον ἐοῖο παρεῖσέ τε, φαῖνέ τε μῦθον·

Κέκλυθι νῦν, Θέτι δια, τά τοι ἐπιέλδομ' ἐνισπεῖν.
 οἴσθα μέν, ὅσπον ἐμῇσιν ἐνὶ φρεσὶ τίεται ἥρως
 Αἰσονίδης, οἱ δ' ἄλλοι ἄσπονητῆρες ἀέθλου,
 οἴως τέ σφ' ἐσάωσα διὰ πλαγκτὰς περώοντας
 πέτρας, ἔνθα πυρὸς δειναὶ βρομέουσι θύελλαι,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

“Dear Iris, now come, if ever thou hast fulfilled my bidding, hie thee away on light pinions, and bid Thetis arise from the sea and come hither. For need of her is come upon me. Then go to the sea-beaches where the bronze anvils of Hephaestus are smitten by sturdy hammers, and tell him to still the blasts of fire until Argo pass by them. Then go to Aeolus too, Aeolus who rules the winds, children of the clear sky; and to him also tell my purpose so that he may make all winds cease under heaven and no breeze may ruffle the sea; yet let the breath of the west wind blow until the heroes have reached the Phaeacian isle of Alcinous.”

So she spake, and straightway Iris leapt down from Olympus and cleft her way, with light wings outspread. And she plunged into the Aegean Sea, where is the dwelling of Nereus. And she came to Thetis first and, by the promptings of Hera, told her tale and roused her to go to the goddess. Next she came to Hephaestus, and quickly made him cease from the clang of his iron hammers; and the smoke-grimed bellows were stayed from their blast. And thirdly she came to Aeolus, the famous son of Hippos. And when she had given her message to him also and rested her swift knees from her course, then Thetis leaving Nereus and her sisters had come from the sea to Olympus to the goddess Hera; and the goddess made her sit by her side and uttered her word:

“Hearken now, lady Thetis, to what I am eager to tell thee. Thou knowest how honoured in my heart is the hero, Aeson’s son, and the others that have helped him in the contest, and how I saved them when they passed between the Wandering

κύματά τε σκληρῇσι περιβλύει σπιλάδεσσιν.
 νῦν δὲ παρὰ Σκύλλης σκόπελον μέγαν ἠδὲ Χάρυβδιν
 δεινὸν ἐρευγομένην δέχεται ὁδός. ἀλλὰ σε γὰρ δὴ 790
 ἐξέτι νηπυτίης αὐτὴ τρέφον ἠδ' ἀγάπησα
 ἕξοχον ἀλλάων, αἴτ' εἰν ἀλὶ ναιετάουσιν,
 οὔνεκεν οὐκ ἔτλης εὐνῇ Διὸς ἰέμένοιο
 λέξασθαι. κείνῳ γὰρ αἰεὶ τάδε ἔργα μέμηλεν,
 ἥε σὺν ἀθανάταις ἥε θνητῇσιν ἰαύειν.
 ἀλλ' ἐμὲ αἰδομένη καὶ ἐνὶ φρεσὶ δειμαίνουσα,
 ἠλεεύω· ὁ δ' ἔπειτα πελώριον ὄρκον ὁμοσσειν,
 μήποτέ σ' ἀθαιάτοιο θεοῦ καλέεσθαι ἄκοιτιν.
 ἔμπης δ' οὐ μεθίεσκειν ὀπιπεύων ἀέκουσαν,
 εἰσότε οἱ πρέσβειρα Θέμις κατέλεξεν ἅπαντα, 800
 ὥς δὴ τοι πέπρωται ἀμείνονα πατρὸς ἐοῖο
 παῖδα τεκεῖν· τῷ καὶ σε λιλαιόμενος μεθέηκεν,
 δείματι, μή τις ἐοῦ ἀντάξιος ἄλλος ἀνάσσοι
 ἀθανάτων, ἀλλ' αἰὲν ἐὼν κράτος εἰρύοιτο.
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ τὸν ἄριστον ἐπιχθονίων πόσιν εἶναι
 δῶκά τοι, ὄφρα γάμον θυμηδέος ἀντιάσειας,
 τέκνα τε φιτύσαιο· θεοὺς δ' ἐς δαῖτ' ἐκάλεσσα
 πάντας ὁμῶς· αὐτὴ δὲ σέλας χεῖρεσσιν ἀνέσχον
 νυμφίδιον, κείνης ἀγανόφρονος εἵνεκα τιμῆς.
 ἀλλ' ἄγε καὶ τινά τοι νημερτέα μῦθον ἐνίψω. 810
 εὖτ' ἂν ἐς Ἥλύσιον πεδίου τεδὸς νίδς ἴκηται,
 ὃν δὴ νῦν Χείρωνος ἐν ἥθεσι Κενταύριοι
 νηιάδες κομέουσι τεοῦ λίπτοντα γάλακτος.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

rocks,¹ where roar terrible storms of fire and the waves foam round the rugged reefs. And now past the mighty rock of Scylla and Charybdis horribly belching, a course awaits them. But thee indeed from thy infancy did I tend with my own hands and love beyond all others that dwell in the salt sea because thou didst refuse to share the couch of Zeus, for all his desire. For to him such deeds are ever dear, to embrace either goddesses or mortal women. But in reverence for me and with fear in thy heart thou didst shrink from his love; and he then swore a mighty oath that thou shouldst never be called the bride of an immortal god. Yet he ceased not from spying thee against thy will, until reverend Themis declared to him the whole truth, how that it was thy fate to bear a son mightier than his sire; wherefore he gave thee up, for all his desire, fearing lest another should be his match and rule the immortals, and in order that he might ever hold his own dominion. But I gave thee the best of the sons of earth to be thy husband, that thou mightest find a marriage dear to thy heart and bear children; and I summoned to the feast the gods, one and all. And with my own hand I raised the bridal torch, in return for the kindly honour thou didst pay me. But come, let me tell a tale that erreth not. When thy son shall come to the Elysian plain, he whom now in the home of Cheiron the Centaur water-nymphs are tending, though he still craves thy mother milk, it is fated

¹ The *Symplegades* are referred to, where help was given by Athena, not by Hera. It is strange that no mention is made of the *Planctae*, properly so called, past which they are soon to be helped. Perhaps some lines have fallen out.

χρειώ μιν κούρης πόσιν ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο
 Μηδείης· σὺ δ' ἄρηγε νυῶ ἐκυρή περ ἐοῦσα,
 ἡδ' αὐτῷ Πηληϊ. τί τοι χόλος ἐστήρικται;
 ἀάσθη. καὶ γάρ τε θεοὺς ἐπινίσσεται ἄτη.
 ναὶ μὲν ἐφημοσύνησιν ἑμαῖς "Ηφαιστον οἶω
 λωφήσειν πρήσοντα πυρὸς μένος, Ἴπποτάδην δὲ
 Αἴολον ὠκείας ἀνέμων αἶκας ἐρύξειν, 820
 νόσφιν εὐσταθέος ζεφύρου, τείως κεν ἴκωνται
 Φαιήκων λιμένας· σὺ δ' ἀκηδέα μῆδεο νόστον.
 δεῖμα δέ τοι πέτραι καὶ ὑπέρβια κύματ' ἔασιν
 μῦνον, ἃ κεν τρέψαιο κασιγνήτησι σὺν ἄλλαις.
 μηδὲ σύγ' ἡὲ Χάρυβδιν ἀμηχανέοντας ἐάσης
 ἐσβαλέειν, μὴ πάντας ἀναβρόξασα φέρησιν,
 ἡὲ παρὰ Σκύλλης στυγερὸν κευθμῶνα νέεσθαι,
 Σκύλλης Αὐσονίης ὀλοόφρονος, ἣν τέκε Φόρκυι
 νυκτιπόλος Ἐκάτη, τήντε κλείουσι Κράταιν,
 μὴ πως σμερδαλέησιν ἐπαῖξασα γένυσσιν 830
 λεκτοὺς ἡρώων δηλήσεται. ἀλλ' ἔχε νῆα
 κεῖσ', ὅτι περ τυτθήγε παραίβασις ἔσσετ' ὀλέθρου.
 Ὡς φάτο· τὴν δὲ Θέτις τοίῳ προσελέξατο μύθῳ·
 'Εἰ μὲν δὴ μαλεροῖο πυρὸς μένος ἡδὲ θύελλαι
 ζαχρηεῖς λήξουσιν ἐτήτυμον, ἦ τ' ἂν ἔγωγε
 θαρσαλέη φαίην, καὶ κύματος ἀντιώωντος
 νῆα σαωσέμεναι, ζεφύρου λίγα κινυμένοιο.
 ἀλλ' ὥρῃ δολιχὴν τε καὶ ἄσπετον οἶμον ὀδεύειν
 ὄφρα κασιγνήτας μετελεύσομαι, αἶ μοι ἄρωγοὶ
 ἔσσονται, καὶ νηὸς ὅθι πρυμνήσιν ἀνήπται, 840
 ὥς κεν ὑπηῶοι μνησαίατο νόστον ἐλέσθαι.
 Ἦ, καὶ ἀναῖξασα κατ' αἰθέρος ἔμπεσε δίναις
 κυανέου πόντοιο· κύλει δ' ἐπαμυνμέναν ἄλλαν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

that he be the husband of Medea, Aeetes' daughter; do thou aid thy daughter as a mother should, and aid Peleus himself. Why is thy wrath so steadfast? He was blinded by folly. For blindness comes even upon the gods. Surely at my behest I deem that Hephaestus will cease from kindling the fury of his flame, and that Aeolus, son of Hippotas, will check his swift rushing winds, all but the steady west wind, until they reach the havens of the Phaeacians; do thou devise a return without bane. The rocks and the tyrannous waves are my fear, they alone, and them thou canst foil with thy sisters' aid. And let them not fall in their helplessness into Charybdis lest she swallow them at one gulp, or approach the hideous lair of Scylla, Ausonian Scylla the deadly, whom night-wandering Hecate, who is called Crataeis,¹ bare to Phorcys, lest swooping upon them with her horrible jaws she destroy the chiefest of the heroes. But guide their ship in the course where there shall be still a hair's breadth escape from destruction."

Thus she spake, and Thetis answered with these words: "If the fury of the ravening flame and the stormy winds cease in very deed, surely will I promise boldly to save the ship, even though the waves bar the way, if only the west wind blows fresh and clear. But it is time to fare on a long and measureless path, in quest of my sisters who will aid me, and to the spot where the ship's hawsers are fastened, that at early dawn the heroes may take thought to win their home-return."

She spake, and darting down from the sky fell amid the eddies of the dark blue sea; and she called

¹ i.e. the Mighty One.

αὐτοκασιγνήτας Νηρηίδας· αἱ δ' αἴουσαι
 ἦντεον ἀλλήλησι· Θέτις δ' ἀγόρευεν ἐφετμὰς
 "Ἡρης· αἶψα δ' ἴαλλε μετ' Αὐσονίην ἄλα πάσας.
 αὐτὴ δ' ὠκυτέρῃ ἀμαρύγματος ἢ βολάων
 ἡελίου, ὅτ' ἄνεισι περαίης ὑψόθι γαίης,
 σεύατ' ἵμεν λαιψηρὰ δι' ὕδατος, ἔστ' ἀφίκανεν
 ἀκτὴν Αἰαίην Τυρσηνίδος ἠπείροιο.

850

τοὺς δ' εὗρεν παρὰ νηὶ σόλῳ ῥιπῇσί τ' οἰστών
 τερπομένους· ἡ δ' ἄσσον ὀρεξαμένη χερὸς ἄκρης
 Αἰακίδεω Πηλῆος· ὁ γάρ ῥά οἱ ἦεν ἀκοίτης·
 οὐδέ τις εἰσιδέειν δύνατ' ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἄρα τῷ γε
 οἶῳ ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν εἴεσατο, φώνησέν τε·

‘Μηκέτι νῦν ἀκταῖς Τυρσηνίσιν ἦσθε μένοντες,
 ἠῶθεν δὲ θοῆς πρυμνήσια λύετε νηός,
 "Ἡρῃ πειθόμενοι ἐπαρηγόνοι. τῆς γὰρ ἐφετμῆς
 πασσυδίῃ κοῦραι Νηρηίδες ἀντιώωσιν,
 νῆα διέκ πέτρας, αἶτε Πλαγκταὶ καλέονται,
 ῥυσόμεναι. κείνη γὰρ ἐναΐσιμος ὕμμι κέλευθος.
 ἀλλὰ σὺ μὴ τῷ ἐμὸν δείξης δέμας, εὖτ' ἂν ἴδῃαι
 ἀντομένην σὺν τῇσι· νόῳ δ' ἔχε, μὴ με χολώσης
 πλεῖον ἔτ', ἢ τὸ πάροιθεν ἀπηλεγέως ἐχόλωσας.’

860

Ἦ, καὶ ἔπειτ' αἰδήλος ἐδύσατο βένθεα πόντου·
 τὸν δ' ἄχος αἰνὸν ἔτυψεν, ἐπεὶ πάρος οὐκέτ' ἰοῦσαν
 ἔδρακεν, ἐξότε πρῶτα λίπεν θάλαμόν τε καὶ εὐνὴν
 χωσαμένην Ἀχιλῆος ἀγαυοῦ νηπιάχοντος.
 ἡ μὲν γὰρ βροτέας αἰεὶ περὶ σάρκας ἔδαιεν
 νύκτα διὰ μέσσην φλογμῷ πυρός. ἤματα δ' αὖτε
 ἀμβροσίῃ χρίεσκε τέρεν δέμας, ὄφρα πέλοιτο

870

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

to aid her the rest of the Nereids, her own sisters ; and they heard her and gathered together ; and Thetis declared to them Hera's behests, and quickly sped them all on their way to the Ausonian sea. And herself, swifter than the flash of an eye or the shafts of the sun, when it rises upwards from a far-distant land, hastened swiftly through the sea, until she reached the Aeaean beach of the Tyrrhenian mainland. And the heroes she found by the ship taking their pastime with quoits and shooting of arrows ; and she drew near and just touched the hand of Aeacus' son Peleus, for he was her husband ; nor could anyone see her clearly, but she appeared to his eyes alone, and thus addressed him :

"No longer now must ye stay sitting on the Tyrrhenian beach, but at dawn loosen the hawsers of your swift ship, in obedience to Hera, your helper. For at her behest the maiden daughters of Nereus have met together to draw your ship through the midst of the rocks which are called *Planctae*,¹ for that is your destined path. But do thou show my person to no one, when thou seest us come to meet thee, but keep it secret in thy mind, lest thou anger me still more than thou didst anger me before so recklessly."

She spake, and vanished into the depths of the sea ; but sharp pain smote Peleus, for never before had he seen her come, since first she left her bridal chamber and bed in anger, on account of noble Achilles, then a babe. For she ever encompassed the child's mortal flesh in the night with the flame of fire ; and day by day she anointed with ambrosia his tender frame, so that he might become immortal

¹ *i.e.* the Wanderers.

ἀθάνατος, καὶ οἱ στυγερὸν χροῖ' γῆρας ἀλάλκοι.
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἐξ εὐνῆς ἀνεπάλμενος εἰσενόησεν
 παῖδα φίλον σπαίροντα διὰ φλογός· ἦκε δ' αὐτὴν
 σμερδαλέην ἐσιδών, μέγα νήπιος· ἦ δ' αἶουσα
 τὸν μὲν ἄρ' ἀρπάγδην χαμάδις βάλε κεκληγῶτα,
 αὐτὴ δὲ πνοιῇ ἱκέλη δέμας, ἡγύτ' ὄνειρος,
 βῆ ῥ' ἔμεν ἐκ μεγάρου θοῶς, καὶ ἐσήλατο πόντον
 χωσαμένη· μετὰ δ' οὔτι παλίσσυτος ἔκετ' ὀπίσσω.
 τῷ μιν ἀμηχανίῃ δῆσεν φρένας· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης
 πᾶσαν ἐφημοσύνην Θέτιδος μετέειπεν ἐταίροις.
 οἱ δ' ἄρα μεσσηγὺς λῆξαν καὶ ἔπαυσαν ἀέθλους
 ἐσσυμένως, δόρπον τε χαμεύνας τ' ἀμφεπένοντο,
 τῆς ἔνι δαισάμενοι νύκτ' ἄεσαν, ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν.

880

Ἦμος δ' ἄκρον ἔβαλλε φαεσφόρος οὐρανὸν Ἠώς,
 δὴ τότε λαιψηροῖο κατηλυσίῃ ζεφύροιο
 βαῖνον ἐπὶ κληίδας ἀπὸ χθονός· ἐκ δὲ βυθοῖο
 εὐναίας εἴλκον περιγηθείες ἄλλα τε πάντα
 ἄρμενα μηρύοντο κατὰ χρέος· ὕψι δὲ λαῖφος
 εἵρυσσαν τανύσαντες ἐν ἱμάντεσσι κεραίης.
 νῆα δ' ἐγκραῆς ἄνεμος φέρεν. αἶψα δὲ νῆσον
 καλήν, Ἀνθεμόεσσαν ἐσέδρακον, ἔνθα λίγειαί
 Σειρῆνες σίνοντ' Ἀχελώιδες ἠδείησιν
 θέλγουσαι μολπῇσιν, ὅτις παρὰ πείσμα βάλοιτο.
 τὰς μὲν ἄρ' εὐειδὴς Ἀχελωῖω εὐνηθεῖσα
 γείνατο Τερψιχόρῃ, Μουσέων μία· καὶ ποτε Δηρῆς
 θυγατέρ' ἰφθίμην ἀδμῆτ' ἔτι πορσαίνεσκον
 ἄμμιγα μελπόμεναι· τότε δ' ἄλλο μὲν οἴωνοῖσιν,
 ἄλλο δὲ παρθενικῆς ἐναλίγκιαι ἔσκον ιδέσθαι.
 αἰεὶ δ' εὐόρμου δεδοκῆσθαι ἐκ περιωπῆς
 ἦ θαμὰ δὴ πολέων μελιηδέα νόστον ἔλοντο,

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and that she might keep off from his body loathsome old age. But Peleus leapt up from his bed and saw his dear son gasping in the flame; and at the sight he uttered a terrible cry, fool that he was; and she heard it, and catching up the child threw him screaming to the ground, and herself like a breath of wind passed swiftly from the hall as a dream and leapt into the sea, exceeding wroth, and thereafter returned not again. Wherefore blank amazement fettered his soul; nevertheless he declared to his comrades all the bidding of Thetis. And they broke off in the midst and hurriedly ceased their contests, and prepared their meal and earth-strewn beds, whereon after supper they slept through the night as aforetime.

Now when dawn the light-bringer was touching the edge of heaven, then at the coming of the swift west wind they went to their thwarts from the land; and gladly did they draw up the anchors from the deep and made the tackling ready in due order; and above spread the sail, stretching it taut with the sheets from the yard-arm. And a fresh breeze wafted the ship on. And soon they saw a fair island, Anthemoessa, where the clear-voiced Sirens, daughters of Achelous, used to beguile with their sweet songs whoever cast anchor there, and then destroy him. Them lovely Terpsichore, one of the Muses, bare, united with Achelous; and once they tended Demeter's noble daughter still unwed, and sang to her in chorus; and at that time they were fashioned in part like birds and in part like maidens to behold. And ever on the watch from their place of prospect with its fair haven, often from many had they taken away their sweet return, consuming

τηκεδόνι φθινύθουσαι· ἀπηλεγέως δ' ἄρα καὶ τοῖς
 ἴεσαν ἐκ στομάτων ὅπα λείριον. οἱ δ' ἀπὸ νηὸς
 ἤδη πείσματ' ἔμελλον ἐπ' ἠιόνεσσι βαλέσθαι,
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Οἰάγροιο πάις Θρηϊκίος Ὀρφεὺς
 Βιστονίην ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐαῖς φόρμιγγα τανύσσας
 κραιπνὸν ἐντροχάλοιο μέλος κανάχησεν αἰοιδῆς,
 ὄφρ' ἄμυδις κλονέοντος ἐπιβρομέωνται ἀκουαὶ
 κρεγμῶ· παρθενικὴν δ' ἐνοπὴν ἐβιήσατο φόρμιγξ.
 νῆα δ' ὁμοῦ ζέφυρός τε καὶ ἠχῆεν φέρε κύμα 910
 πρυμνόθεν ὀρνύμενον· ταὶ δ' ἄκριτον ἴεσαν αὐδὴν.
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ὥς Τελέοντος εὖς πάις, οἷος ἐταίρων
 προφθάμενος, ξεστοῖο κατὰ ζυγοῦ ἐνθορε πόντῳ
 Βούτης, Σειρήνων λιγυρῇ ὀπὶ θυμὸν ἱανθείς·
 νῆχε δὲ πορφυρέοιο δι' οἷδατος, ὄφρ' ἐπιβαίῃ,
 σχέτλιος. ἦ τέ οἱ αἶψα καταυτόθι νόστον ἀπηύρων,
 ἀλλὰ μιν οἰκτεῖρασα θεὰ Ἑρυκος μεδέουσα
 Κύπρις ἔτ' ἐν δίναις ἀνερείψατο, καὶ ῥ' ἐσάωσεν
 πρόφρων ἀντομένη Λιλυβηίδα ναιέμεν ἄκρην.
 οἱ δ' ἄχεϊ σχόμενοι τὰς μὲν λίπον, ἄλλα δ' ὄπαζον 920
 κύντερα μιξοδίησιν ἀλὸς ῥαιστήρια νηῶν.

Τῇ μὲν γὰρ Σκύλλης λισσὴ προυφαίνετο πέτρῃ·
 τῇ δ' ἄμοτον βοάσκειν ἀναβλύζουσα Χάρυβδις·
 ἄλλοθι δὲ Πλαγκταὶ μεγάλῳ ὑπὸ κύματι πέτραι
 ῥόχθεον, ἥχι πάροιθεν ἀπέπτυνεν αἰθομένη φλόξ
 ἄκρων ἐκ σκοπέλων, πυριθαλπέος ὑψόθι πέτρης,
 καπνῶ δ' ἀχλυόεις αἰθὴρ πέλεν, οὐδέ κεν αὐγὰς
 ἔδρακες ἡελίοιο. τότε αὖ λήξαντος ἀπ' ἔργων
 Ἥφαίστου θερμὴν ἔτι κήκιε πόντος αὐτμήν.
 ἐνθα σφιν κοῦραι Νηρηίδες ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

them with wasting desire ; and suddenly to the heroes, too, they sent forth from their lips a lily-like voice. And they were already about to cast from the ship the hawsers to the shore, had not Thracian Orpheus, son of Oeagrus, stringing in his hands his Bistonian lyre, rung forth the hasty snatch of a rippling melody so that their ears might be filled with the sound of his twanging ; and the lyre overcame the maidens' voice. And the west wind and the sounding wave rushing astern bore the ship on ; and the Sirens kept uttering their ceaseless song. But even so the goodly son of Teleon alone of the comrades leapt before them all from the polished bench into the sea, even Butes, his soul melted by the clear ringing voice of the Sirens ; and he swam through the dark surge to mount the beach, poor wretch. Quickly would they have robbed him of his return then and there, but the goddess that rules Eryx, Cypris, in pity snatched him away, while yet in the eddies, and graciously meeting him saved him to dwell on the Lilybean height. And the heroes, seized by anguish, left the Sirens, but other perils still worse, destructive to ships, awaited them in the meeting-place of the seas.

For on one side appeared the smooth rock of Scylla ; on the other Charybdis ceaselessly spouted and roared ; in another part the Wandering rocks were booming beneath the mighty surge, where before the burning flame spurted forth from the top of the crags, above the rock glowing with fire, and the air was misty with smoke, nor could you have seen the sun's light. Then, though Hephaestus had ceased from his toils, the sea was still sending up a warm vapour. Hereupon on this side and on that

ἦν τεον· ἡ δ' ὄπιθεν πτέρυγος θίγε πηδαλίοιο
 δία Θέτις, Πλαγκτῆσιν ἐνὶ σπιλάδεσσιν ἐρύσσαι.
 ὥς δ' ὀπόταν δελφίνες ὑπὲξ ἁλὸς εὐδιόωντες
 σπερχομένην ἀγεληδὸν ἐλίσσονται περὶ νῆα,
 ἄλλοτε μὲν προπάροιθεν ὀρώμενοι, ἄλλοτ' ὄπισθεν,
 ἄλλοτε παρβολάδην, ναύτησι δὲ χάρμα τέτυκται·
 ὥς αἱ ὑπεκπροθέουσαι ἐπήτριμοι εἰλίσσονται
 Ἄργώῃ περὶ νηί, Θέτις δ' ἴθυνε κέλευθον.
 καὶ ῥ' ὅτε δὴ Πλαγκτῆσιν ἐνιχρίμψεσθαι ἔμελλον,
 αὐτίκ' ἀνασχόμεναι λευκοῖς ἐπὶ γούνασι πέζας, 940
 ὑψοῦ ἐπ' αὐτῶν σπιλάδων καὶ κύματος ἀγῆς
 ῥώοντ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα διασταδὸν ἀλλήλησιν.
 τὴν δὲ παρηορίην κόπτεν ῥόος· ἀμφὶ δὲ κῦμα
 λάβρον αἰερόμενον πέτραις ἐπικαχλάζεσκεν,
 αἶθ' ὅτε μὲν κρημνοῖς ἐναλίγκιαι ἡέρι κῦρον,
 ἄλλοτε δὲ βρύχαι νεάτῳ ὑπὸ πυθμένι πόντου
 ἡρήρειν, τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπείρεχεν ἄγριον οἶδμα.
 αἱ δ', ὥστ' ἡμαθόεντος ἐπισχεδὸν αἰγιαλοῖο
 παρθενικαί, δίχα κόλπον ἐπ' ἱξύας εἰλίξασαι,
 σφαίρῃ ἀθύρουσιν περιηγεί· αἱ μὲν ἔπειτα 950
 ἄλλη ὑπ' ἐξ ἄλλης δέχεται καὶ ἐς ἡέρα πέμπει
 ὕψι μεταχρονίην· ἡ δ' οὐποτε πῖλναται οὔδεις·
 ὥς αἱ νῆα θέουσιν ἀμοιβαδὶς ἄλλοθεν ἄλλη
 πέμπε διηερίην ἐπὶ κύμασιν, αἰὲν ἄπωθεν
 πετράων· περὶ δέ σφιν ἐρευνγόμενον ζέεν ὕδωρ.
 τὰς δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς ἄναξ κορυφῆς ἐπὶ λισσάδος ἄκρις
 ὀρθὸς ἐπὶ στελεῇ τυπίδος βαρὺν ὦμον ἐρείσας
 Ἥφαιστος θηεῖτο, καὶ αἰγλήεντος ὑπερθευ
 οὐρανοῦ ἐστηνῖα Διὸς δάμαρ· ἀμφὶ δ' Ἀθήνη

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

the daughters of Nereus met them; and behind, lady Thetis set her hand to the rudder-blade, to guide them amid the Wandering rocks. And as when in fair weather herds of dolphins come up from the depths and sport in circles round a ship as it speeds along, now seen in front, now behind, now again at the side—and delight comes to the sailors; so the Nereids darted upward and circled in their ranks round the ship Argo, while Thetis guided its course. And when they were about to touch the Wandering rocks, straightway they raised the edge of their garments over their snow-white knees, and aloft, on the very rocks and where the waves broke, they hurried along on this side and on that apart from one another. And the ship was raised aloft as the current smote her, and all around the furious wave mounting up broke over the rocks, which at one time touched the sky like towering crags, at another, down in the depths, were fixed fast at the bottom of the sea and the fierce waves poured over them in floods. And the Nereids, even as maidens near some sandy beach roll their garments up to their waists out of their way and sport with a shapely-rounded ball; then they catch it one from another and send it high into the air; and it never touches the ground; so they in turn one from another sent the ship through the air over the waves, as it sped on ever away from the rocks; and round them the water spouted and foamed. And lord Hephaestus himself standing on the summit of a smooth rock and resting his massy shoulder on the handle of his hammer, beheld them, and the spouse of Zeus beheld them as she stood above the gleaming heaven; and she threw her arms round Athena, such

βάλλε χέρας, τοῖόν μιν ἔχεν δέος εἰσορόωσαν. 960
 ὄσση δ' εἰαρινοῦ μηκύνεται ἡματος αἶσα,
 τοσσάτιον μογέεσκον ἐπὶ χρόνον, ὀχλίζουσai
 νῆα διέκ πέτρας πολυηχέας· οἱ δ' ἀνέμοιο
 αὖτις ἐπαυρόμενοι προτέρω θεόν· ὦκα δ' ἄμειβον
 Θρινακίης λειμῶνα, βοῶν τροφὸν Ἑελίοιο.
 ἔνθ' αἱ μὲν κατὰ βένθος ἀλίγκιαι αἰθυήσιν
 δύνουν, ἐπεὶ ῥ' ἀλόχοιο Διὸς πόρσυνον ἐφετμάς.
 τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις βληχὴ τε δι' ἡέρος ἵκετο μήλων,
 μυκηθμός τε βοῶν αὐτοσχεδὸν οὐατ' ἔβαλλεν.
 καὶ τὰ μὲν ἐρσήεντα κατὰ δρία ποιμαίνεσκεν 970
 ὀπλοτέρη Φαέθουσα θυγατρῶν Ἑελίοιο,
 ἀργύρεον χαῖον παλάμῃ ἐνὶ πηχύνουσα·
 Λαμπετὴν δ' ἐπὶ βουσὶν ὀρειχάλκοιο φαεινοῦ
 πάλλεν ὀπηδεύουσα καλαύροπα. τὰς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 βοσκομένας ποταμοῖο παρ' ὕδασιν εἰσορόωντο
 ἄμ πεδίον καὶ ἔλος λειμώνιον· οὐδέ τις ἦεν
 κυανὴ μετὰ τῇσι δέμας, πᾶσαι δὲ γάλακτι
 εἰδόμεναι, χρυσεοῖσι κεράασι κυδιάασκον.
 καὶ μὲν τὰς παράμειβον ἐπ' ἡματι· νυκτὶ δ' ἰούσῃ
 πείρου ἀλὸς μέγα λαῖτμα κεχαρμένοι, ὄφρα καὶ αὖτις 980
 Ἥως ἡριγενὴς φέγγος βάλε νισσομένοισιν.
 Ἔστι δέ τις πορθμοῖο παροιτέρῃ Ἰονίοιο
 ἀμφιλαφὴς πίειρα Κεραυνίῃ εἰν ἀλὶ νῆσος,
 ἧ ὕπο δὴ κεῖσθαι δρέπανον φάτις—ἴλατε Μοῦσαι,
 οὐκ ἐθέλων ἐνέπω προτέρων ἔπος—ὦ ἀπὸ πατρὸς
 μήδεα νηλειῶς ἔταμεν Κρόνος· οἱ δέ εἰ Δηοῦς
 κλείουσι χθονίης καλαμητόμον ἔμμεναι ἄρπην.
 Δηὼ γὰρ κείνῃ ἐνὶ δὴ ποτε νάσσατο γαίῃ,
 Τιτῆνας δ' ἔδαε στάχυν ὄμπνιον ἀμήσασθαι,

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fear seized her as she gazed. And as long as the space of a day is lengthened out in springtime, so long a time did they toil, heaving the ship between the loud-echoing rocks; then again the heroes caught the wind and sped onward; and swiftly they passed the mead of Thrinacia, where the kine of Helios fed. There the nymphs, like sea-mews, plunged beneath the depths, when they had fulfilled the behests of the spouse of Zeus. And at the same time the bleating of sheep came to the heroes through the mist and the lowing of kine, near at hand, smote their ears. And over the dewy leas Phaëthusa, the youngest of the daughters of Helios, tended the sheep, bearing in her hand a silver crook; while Lampetia, herding the kine, wielded a staff of glowing orichalcum¹ as she followed. These kine the heroes saw feeding by the river's stream, over the plain and the water-meadow; not one of them was dark in hue but all were white as milk and glorying in their horns of gold. So they passed them by in the day-time, and when night came on they were cleaving a great sea-gulf, rejoicing, until again early rising dawn threw light upon their course.

Fronting the Ionian gulf there lies an island in the Ceraunian sea, rich in soil, with a harbour on both sides, beneath which lies the sickle, as legend saith—grant me grace, O Muses, not willingly do I tell this tale of olden days—wherewith Cronos pitilessly mutilated his father; but others call it the reaping-hook of Demeter, goddess of the nether world. For Demeter once dwelt in that island, and taught the Titans to reap the ears of corn, all for

¹ A fabulous metal, resembling gold in appearance.

Μάκριδα φιλαμένη. Δρεπάνη τόθεν ἐκλήσται
οὔνομα, Φαιήκων ἱερὴ τροφός· ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
αἵματος Οὐρανίουο γένος Φαίηκες ἔασιν.
τοὺς Ἄργῳ πολέεσσιν ἐνισχυμένη καμάτοισιν
Θρινακίης αὐρῆς ἔκετ' ἐξ ἁλός· οἱ δ' ἀγανῆσιν
Ἀλκίνοος λαοὶ τε θυηπολίησιν ἰόντας
δειδέχατ' ἄσπασίως· ἐπὶ δέ σφισι καγχαλάσκειν
πᾶσα πόλις· φαίης κεν ἑοῖς ἐπὶ παισὶ γάνυσθαι.
καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἥρωες ἀνὰ πληθύν κεχάροντο,
τῷ ἔκελοι, οἷόν τε μεσαιοτάτῃ ἐμβεβαῶτες
Αἰμονίῃ· μέλλον δὲ βοῇ ἐνὶ θωρήξεσθαι·
ὧδε μάλ' ἀγχιμόλον στρατὸς ἄσπετος ἐξεφαάνθη
Κόλχων, οἱ Πόντοιο κατὰ στόμα καὶ διὰ πέτρας
Κυανέας μαστῆρες ἀριστῆων ἐπέρησαν.
Μήδειαν δ' ἔξαιτον ἐοῦ ἐς πατρός ἄγεσθαι
ἔειντ' ἀπροφάτως, ἥ ἐστονόεσαν αὐτὴν
νωμήσειν χαλεπῇσιν ὁμόκλειον ἀτροπήσιν
αὐθὶ τε καὶ μετέπειτα σὺν Αἰήταο κελεύθῳ.
ἀλλὰ σφεας κατέρυκεν ἐπειγομένους πολέμοιο
κρείων Ἀλκίνοος. λελίητο γὰρ ἀμφοτέροισιν
δηιοτήτος ἄνευθεν ὑπέρβια νείκεα λῦσαι.
κούρη δ' οὐλομένῳ ὑπὸ δείματι πολλὰ μὲν αὐτοῦς
Αἰσονίδεω ἐτάρους μειλίσσετο, πολλὰ δὲ χερσὶν
Ἀρήτης γούνων ἀλόχου θίγεν Ἀλκινόοιο·

‘Γουνοῦμαι, βασίλεια· σὺ δ’ ἔλαθι, μηδέ με Κόλ-
χοις

ἐκδόως ὃ πατρὶ κομιζέμεν, εἴ νυ καὶ αὕτῃ
ἀνθρώπων γενεῆς μία φέρβειαι, οἷσιν ἐς ἄτην
ὠκύτατος κούφησι θέει νόος ἀμπλακίησιν.
ὥς ἐμοὶ ἐκ πυκινὰ ἐπεσον φρένες, οὐ μὲν ἔκητι
μαργοσύνης. ἴστω δ' ἱερὸν φάος Ἥελιοιο,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

the love of Macris. Whence it is called Drepane,¹ the sacred nurse of the Phaeacians; and thus the Phaeacians themselves are by birth of the blood of Uranus. To them came Argo, held fast by many toils, borne by the breezes from the Thrinacian sea; and Alcinous and his people with kindly sacrifice gladly welcomed their coming; and over them all the city made merry; thou wouldst say they were rejoicing over their own sons. And the heroes themselves strode in gladness through the throng, even as though they had set foot in the heart of Haemonia; but soon were they to arm and raise the battle-cry; so near to them appeared a boundless host of Colchians, who had passed through the mouth of Pontus and between the Cyanean rocks in search of the chieftains. They desired forthwith to carry off Medea to her father's house apart from the rest, or else they threatened with fierce cruelty to raise the dread war-cry both then and thereafter on the coming of Aeetes. But lordly Alcinous checked them amid their eagerness for war. For he longed to allay the lawless strife between both sides without the clash of battle. And the maiden in deadly fear often implored the comrades of Aeson's son, and often with her hands touched the knees of Arete, the bride of Alcinous:

“I beseech thee, O queen, be gracious and deliver me not to the Colchians to be borne to my father, if thou thyself too art one of the race of mortals, whose heart rushes swiftly to ruin from light transgressions. For my firm sense forsook me—it was not for wantonness. Be witness the sacred light of Helios, be witness the rites of the maiden that

¹ *i.e.* the Sickie-island.

ἴστω νυκτιπόλου Περσηίδος ὄργια κούρης,
μὴ μὲν ἐγὼν ἐθέλουσα σὺν ἀνδράσιν ἀλλοδαποῖσιν
κεῖθεν ἀφωρμήθην· στυγερὸν δέ με τάρβος ἔπεισεν
τῆσγε φυγῆς μνήσασθαι, ὅτ' ἤλιτον· οὐδέ τις ἄλλη
μῆτις ἔην. ἔτι μοι μήτρη μένει, ὡς ἐνὶ πατρὸς
δώμασιν, ἄχραντος καὶ ἀκήρατος. ἀλλ' ἐλέαιρε,
πότνα, τεόν τε πόσιν μελίσσαιο· σοὶ δ' ὀπάσειαν
ἀθάνατοι βίότον τε τελεσφόρον ἀγλαΐην τε
καὶ παῖδας καὶ κῦδος ἀπορθήτοιο πόληος.¹

102

Τοῖα μὲν Ἀρήτην γουνάζετο δάκρυ χέουσα·
τοῖα δ' ἀριστήων ἐναμοιβαδὶς ἄνδρα ἕκαστον·

1030

Ἐμέων, ὃ πὲρι δὴ μέγα φέρτατοι, ἀμφὶ τ' ἀέθλοισι
ὦν κάμον¹ ὑμετέροισιν, ἀτύζομαι· ἥς ἰότητι
ταύρους τ' ἐξεύξασθε, καὶ ἐκ θέρος οὐλοὸν ἀνδρῶν
κείρατε γηγενέων· ἥς εἵνεκεν Αἰμονίηνδε
χρύσειον αὐτίκα κῶας ἀνάζετε νοστήσαντες.

ἦδ' ἐγώ, ἦ πάτρην τε καὶ οὖς ὤλεσσα τοκῆας,
ἦ δόμον, ἦ σύμπασαν ἐυφροσύνην βιότοιο.

Ἕμμι δὲ καὶ πάτρην καὶ δώματα ναιέμεν αὖτις
ἦνυσα· καὶ γλυκεροῖσιν ἔτ' εἰσόψεσθε τοκῆας
ὄμμασιν· αὐτὰρ ἐμοὶ ἀπὸ δὴ βαρὺς εἴλετο δαίμων
ἀγλαΐας· στυγερὴ δὲ σὺν ὀθνείοις ἀλάλημαι.

1040

δεῖσατε συνθεσίας τε καὶ ὄρκια, δεῖσατ' Ἐρινὺν
Ἰκεσίην, νέμεσίν τε θεῶν, ἐς χεῖρας ἰοῦσαν
Αἰήτεω λώβῃ πολυπήμονι δηωθῆναι.

οὐ νηούς, οὐ πύργον ἐπίρροθον, οὐκ ἄλεωρὴν
ἄλλην, οἴοθι δὲ προτιβάλλομαι ὑμέας αὐτούς.

σχέτλιοι ἀτροπῆς καὶ ἀνηλέες· οὐδ' ἐνὶ θυμῷ
αἰδεῖσθε ξείνης μ' ἐπὶ γούνατα χεῖρας ἀνάσσης
δερκόμενοι τείνουσαν ἀμήχανον· ἀλλὰ κε πᾶσιν,

¹ ὦν κάμον Merkel: οὔνεκεν MSS.

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wanders by night, daughter of Perses. Not willingly did I haste from my home with men of an alien race; but a horrible fear wrought on me to bethink me of flight when I sinned; other device was there none. Still my maiden's girdle remains, as in the halls of my father, unstained, untouched. Pity me, lady, and turn thy lord to mercy; and may the immortals grant thee a perfect life, and joy, and children, and the glory of a city unravaged!"

Thus did she implore Arete, shedding tears, and thus each of the chieftains in turn:

"On your account, ye men of peerless might, and on account of my toils in your ventures am I sorely afflicted; even I, by whose help ye yoked the bulls, and reaped the deadly harvest of the earthborn men; even I, through whom on your homeward path ye shall bear to Haemonia the golden fleece. Lo, here am I, who have lost my country and my parents, who have lost my home and all the delights of life; to you have I restored your country and your homes; with eyes of gladness ye will see again your parents; but from me a heavy-handed god has reft all joy; and with strangers I wander, an accursed thing. Fear your covenant and your oaths, fear the Fury that avenges suppliants and the retribution of heaven, if I fall into Aeetes' hands and am slain with grievous outrage. To no shrines, no tower of defence, no other refuge do I pay heed, but only to you. Hard and pitiless in your cruelty! No reverence have ye for me in your heart though ye see me helpless, stretching my hands towards the knees of a stranger queen; yet, when ye longed to seize the fleece,

κῶας ἐλεῖν μεμαῶτες, ἐμίξατε δούρατα Κόλχοις 105
αὐτῷ τ' Αἰήτῃ ὑπερήνορι· νῦν δ' ἐλάθεσθε
ἡγορέης, ὅτε μῦνοι ἀποτμηγέντες ἔασιν·

ᾧ φάτο λισσομένη· τῶν δ' ὄντινα γουναῖοιτο,
ὅς μιν θαρσύνεσκεν ἐρητύων ἀχέουσιν.

σεῖον δ' ἐγχείας εὐήκεας ἐν παλάμησιν,
φάσγανά τ' ἐκ κολεῶν· οὐδὲ σχήσεσθαι ἀρωγῆς
ἔννεπον, εἴ κε δίκης ἀλιτήμονος ἀντιάσειεν.

στρευγομένοις δ' ἂν ὄμιλον ἐπήλυθεν εὐνήτειρα
Νύξ ἔργων ἄνδρεςσι, κετεुकήλησε δὲ πᾶσαν 106
γαῖαν ὁμῶς· τὴν δ' οὔτι μίνυνθά περ εὔνασεν ὕπνος,
ἀλλὰ οἱ ἐν στέρνοις ἀχέων εἰλίσσεται θυμός.

οἶον ὅτε κλωστήρα γυνὴ ταλαεργὸς ἐλίσσει
ἐννουχίῃ· τῇ δ' ἀμφὶ κινύρεται ὀρφανὰ τέκνα
χρηοσύνη πόσιος· σταλάει δ' ὑπὸ δάκρυ παρειᾶς
μνωομένης, οἷη μιν ἐπὶ σμυγερῇ λάβειν αἶσα·
ὥς τῆς ἱκμαίνοντο παρηίδες· ἐν δέ οἱ ἦτορ
ὀξεῖης εἰλείτο πεπαρμένον ἀμφ' ὀδύνησιν.

Τῷ δ' ἔντοσθε δόμοιο κατὰ πτόλιν, ὥς τὸ πά-
ροιθεν,

κρείων Ἀλκίνοος πολυπότνιά τ' Ἀλκινόοιο 1070
Ἀρήτῃ ἄλοχος, κούρης πέρι μητιάσκειν
οἷσιν ἐνὶ λεχέεσσιν διὰ κνέφας· οἶα δ' ἀκοίτην
κουρίδιον θαλεροῖσι δάμαρ προσπτύσσειτο μύθοις·

Ἄγε μοι πολυκηδέα ῥύεο Κόλ-
χων

παρθενικήν, Μινύησι φέρων χάριν· ἐγγύθι δ' Ἄργος
ἡμετέρης νήσοιο καὶ ἀνέρες Αἰμονίης·
Αἰήτης δ' οὔτ' ἂν ναίει σχεδόν, οὐδέ τι ἴδμεν
Αἰήτην, ἀλλ' οἶον ἀκούομεν· ἦδε δὲ κούρη
αἰνοπαθῆς κατὰ μοι νόον ἔκλασεν ἀντιώσα.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

ye would have met all the Colchians face to face and haughty Aeetes himself; but now ye have forgotten your courage, now that they are all alone and cut off."

Thus she spake, beseeching; and to whomsoever she bowed in prayer, that man tried to give her heart and to check her anguish. And in their hands they shook their sharp pointed spears, and drew the swords from their sheaths; and they swore they would not hold back from giving succour, if she should meet with an unrighteous judgement. And the host were all wearied and Night came on them, Night that puts to rest the works of men, and lulled all the earth to sleep; but to the maid no sleep brought rest, but in her bosom her heart was wrung with anguish. Even as when a toiling woman turns her spindle through the night, and round her moan her orphan children, for she is a widow, and down her cheeks fall the tears, as she bethinks her how dreary a lot hath seized her; so Medea's cheeks were wet; and her heart within her was in agony, pierced with sharp pain.

Now within the palace in the city, as aforetime, lay lordly Alcinous and Arete, the revered wife of Alcinous, and on their couch through the night they were devising plans about the maiden; and him, as her wedded husband, the wife addressed with loving words:

"Yea, my friend, come, save the woe-stricken maid from the Colchians and show grace to the Minyae. Argos is near our isle and the men of Haemonia; but Aeetes dwells not near, nor do we know of Aeetes one whit: we hear but his name; but this maiden of dread suffering hath broken my

μή μιν, ἄναξ, Κόλχοισι πόροις ἐς πατρὸς ἄγεσθαι.
 ἀάσθη, ὅτε πρῶτα βοῶν θελκτήρια δῶκεν
 φάρμακά οἱ· σχεδόθεν δὲ κακῶ κακόν, οἷά τε
 πολλὰ

109

ῥέζομεν ἀμπλακίησιν, ἀκειομένην ὑπάλυξεν
 πατρὸς ὑπερφιάλοιο βαρὺν χόλον. αὐτὰρ Ἴήσων,
 ὥς αἴω, μεγάλοισιν ἐνίσχεται ἐξ ἔθεν ὄρκοις,
 κουριδίην θήσεσθαι ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἄκοιτιν.
 τῷ, φίλε, μήτ' οὖν αὐτὸν ἐκὼν ἐπίορκον ὁμόσσαι
 θείης Αἰσονίδην, μήτ' ἄσχετα σείο ἔκhti
 παῖδα πατὴρ θυμῷ κεκοτηότι δηλήσαιτο.
 λῆην γὰρ δύσζηλοι ἐαῖς ἐπὶ παισὶ τοκῆς·
 οἷα μὲν Ἀντιόπην εὐώπιδα μήσατο Νυκτεὺς·
 οἷα δὲ καὶ Δανάη πόντῳ ἐνὶ πήματ' ἀνέτλη,
 πατρὸς ἀτασθαλίῃσι· νέον γε μὲν, οὐδ' ἀποτηλοῦ,
 ὑβριστῆς Ἐχέτος γλήναις ἐνὶ χάλκεα κέντρα
 πῆξε θυγατρὸς ἐῆς· στονόεντι δὲ κάρφεται οἴτῳ
 ὀρφναίῃ ἐνὶ χαλκὸν ἀλετρεύουσα καλιῇ.

109

Ὡς ἔφατ' ἀντομένη· τοῦ δὲ φρένες ἰαίνοντο
 ῆς ἀλόχου μύθοισιν, ἔπος δ' ἐπὶ τοῖον ἔειπεν·

Ἄρῃτη, καὶ κεν σὺν τεύχεσιν ἐξελάσαιμι
 Κόλχους, ἡρώεσσι φέρων χάριν, εἵνεκα κούρης.
 ἀλλὰ Διὸς δειδοῖκα δίκην ἰθεῖαν ἀτίσσαι.
 οὐδὲ μὲν Αἰήτην ἀθεριζέμεν, ὥς ἀγορεύεις,
 λώιον· οὐ γάρ τις βασιλεύτερος Αἰήταο.
 καὶ κ' ἐθέλων, ἕκαθέν περ, ἐφ' Ἑλλάδι νεῖκος
 ἄγοιτο.

1100

τῷ μ' ἐπέοικε δίκην, ἥτις μετὰ πᾶσιν ἀρίστη
 ἔσσεται ἀνθρώποισι, δικαζέμεν· οὐδέ σε κεύσω.
 παρθενικὴν μὲν εἰῶσαν ἐφ' ἀπὸ πατρὶ κομίσσαι
 ἰθύνω· λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσαν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

heart by her prayers. O king, give her not up to the Colchians to be borne back to her father's home. She was distraught when first she gave him the drugs to charm the oxen; and next, to cure one ill by another, as in our sinning we do often, she fled from her haughty sire's heavy wrath. But Jason, as I hear, is bound to her by mighty oaths that he will make her his wedded wife within his halls. Wherefore, my friend, make not, of thy will, Aeson's son to be forsworn, nor let the father, if thou canst help, work with angry heart some intolerable mischief on his child. For fathers are all too jealous against their children; what wrong did Nycteus devise against Antiope, fair of face! What woes did Danae endure on the wide sea through her sire's mad rage! Of late, and not far away, Echetus in wanton cruelty thrust spikes of bronze in his daughter's eyes; and by a grievous fate is she wasting away, grinding grains of bronze in a dungeon's gloom."

Thus she spake, beseeching; and by his wife's words his heart was softened, and thus he spake:

"Arete, with arms I could drive forth the Colchians, showing grace to the heroes for the maiden's sake. But I fear to set at nought the righteous judgement of Zeus. Nor is it well to take no thought of Aeetes, as thou sayest: for none is more lordly than Aeetes. And, if he willed, he might bring war upon Hellas, though he dwell afar. Wherefore it is right for me to deliver the judgement that in all men's eyes shall be best; and I will not hide it from thee. If she be yet a maid I decree that they carry her back to her father; but if she shares a husband's bed, I will not separate her from her lord; nor, if

οὐ μιν ἐοῦ πόσιος νοσφίσσομαι· οὐδέ, γενέθλην
εἴ τιν' ὑπὸ σπλάγχνοισι φέρει, δῆροισιν ὀπάσσω.'

ᾧ Ως ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐπισχεδὸν εὐνασεν
ὑπνος.

1110

ἡ δ' ἔπος ἐν θυμῷ πυκινὸν βάλετ'· αὐτίκα δ' ὦρτο
ἐκ λεχέων ἀνὰ δῶμα· συνήϊξαν δὲ γυναῖκες
ἀμφίπολοι, δέσποιναν ἐὼν μέτα ποιπνύουσαι.
σῖγα δ' ἐὼν κήρυκα καλεσσαμένη προσέειπεν,
ἧσιν ἐπιφροσύνησιν ἐποτρυνέουσα μιγῆναι
Αἰσονίδην κούρη, μηδ' Ἀλκίνοον βασιλῆα
λίσσεσθαι· τὸ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἰὼν Κόλχοισι δικάσσει,
παρθενικὴν μὲν ἐοῦσαν ἐοῦ ποτὶ δώματα πατρὸς
ἐκδώσειν, λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσιν
οὐκέτι κουριδῆς μιν ἀποτμήξειν φιλότητος.

1120

ᾧ Ως ἄρ' ἔφη· τὸν δ' αἶψα πόδες φέρον ἐκ μεγάροιο,
ὥς κεν Ἰήσωνι μῦθον ἐναίσιμον ἀγγείλειν
Ἀρήτης βουλὰς τε θεουδέος Ἀλκινόοιο.
τοὺς δ' εὔρεν παρὰ νηὶ σὺν ἔντεσιν ἐγρήσσοντας
Ἑλλικῷ ἐν λιμένι, σχεδὸν ἄστεος· ἐκ δ' ἄρα πᾶσαν
πέφραδεν ἀγγελίην· γήθησε δὲ θυμὸς ἐκάστου
ἡρώων· μάλα γάρ σφιν ἐαδότα μῦθον ἔειπεν.

Αὐτίκα δὲ κρητῆρα κερασσάμενοι μακάρεσσιν
ἢ θέμις, εὐαγέως ἐπιβώμια μῆλ' ἐρύσαντες,
αὐτονυχὶ κούρη θαλαμήιον ἔντυον εὐνὴν
ἄντρῳ ἐν ἡγαθέῳ, τόθι δὴ ποτε Μάκρις ἔναιεν,
κούρη Ἀρισταίοιο μελίφρονος, ὅς ῥα μελισσέα ν
ἔργα πολυκμήτοιο τ' ἀνεύρατο πῖαρ ἐλαίης.
κείνη δὲ πάμπρωτα Διὸς Νυσήιον νῖα
Εὐβοίης ἔντοσθεν Ἀβαντίδος ᾧ ἐνὶ κόλπῳ
δέξατο, καὶ μέλιτι ξηρὸν περὶ χεῖλος ἔδευσεν,
εὐτέ μιν Ἑρμείας φέρειν ἐκ πυρός· ἔδρακε δ' Ἥρῃ,
καὶ ἐχολωσαμένη πάσης ἐξήλασε νήσου.

1130

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

she bear a child beneath her breast, will I give it up to an enemy."

Thus he spake, and at once sleep laid him to rest. And she stored up in her heart the word of wisdom, and straightway rose from her couch and went through the palace; and her handmaids came hasting together, eagerly tending their mistress. But quietly she summoned her herald and addressed him, in her prudence urging Aeson's son to wed the maiden, and not to implore Alcinous; for he himself, she said, will decree to the Colchians that if she is still a maid he will deliver her up to be borne to her father's house, but that if she shares a husband's bed he will not sever her from wedded love.

Thus she spake, and quickly from the hall his feet bore him, that he might declare to Jason the fair-omened speech of Arete and the counsel of god-fearing Alcinous. And he found the heroes watching in full armour in the haven of Hyllus, near the city; and out he spake the whole message; and each hero's heart rejoiced; for the word that he spake was welcome.

And straightway they mingled a bowl to the blessed ones, as is right, and reverently led sheep to the altar, and for that very night prepared for the maiden the bridal couch in the sacred cave, where once dwelt Macris, the daughter of Aristaeus, lord of honey, who discovered the works of bees and the fatness of the olive, the fruit of labour. She it was that first received in her bosom the Nysean son of Zeus in Abantian Euboea, and with honey moistened his parched lips when Hermes bore him out of the flame. And Hera beheld it, and in wrath drove her from the whole island. And she accordingly came

ἡ δ' ἄρα Φαιήκων ἱερῷ ἐνὶ τηλόθεν ἄνθρω
 νάσσατο, καὶ πόρεν ὄλβον ἀθέσφατον ἐνναέτησιν. 114
 ἔνθα τότ' ἐστόρεσαν λέκτρον μέγα· τοῖο δ' ὕπερθεν
 χρύσεον αἰγλήεν κῶας βάλλον, ὅφρα πέλοιτο
 τιμῆεις τε γάμος καὶ αἰοίδιμος. ἄνθεα δέ σφιν
 νύμφαι ἀμεργόμεναι λευκοῖς ἐνὶ ποικίλα κόλποις
 ἐσφόρεον· πάσας δὲ πυρὸς ὥς ἄμφεπεν αἰγλή·
 τοῖον ἀπὸ χρυσέων θυσάνων ἀμαρύσσετο φέγγος.
 δαίε δ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς γλυκερὸν πόθον· ἴσχε δ'
 ἐκάστην

αἰδῶς ἰεμένην περ ὅμως ἐπὶ χεῖρα βαλέσθαι.
 αἰ μὲν τ' Αἰγαίου ποταμοῦ καλέοντο θύγατρες·
 αἰ δ' ὄρεος κορυφὰς Μελιτηίου ἀμφενέμοντο· 115
 αἰ δ' ἔσαν ἐκ πεδίων ἀλσηίδες. ὥρσε γὰρ αὐτὴ
 "Ἡρη Ζηνὸς ἄκοιτις, Ἰήσωνα κυδαίνουσα.
 κεῖνο καὶ εἰσέτι νῦν ἱερὸν κληίζεται ἄντρον
 Μηδείης, ὅθι τούσγε σὺν ἀλλήλοισιν ἔμιξαν
 τεινάμεναι ἑανοὺς εὐώδεας. οἱ δ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν
 δούρατα νωμήσαντες ἀρήια, μὴ πρὶν ἐς ἀλκὴν
 δυσμενέων αἰδήλος ἐπιβρίσειεν ὄμιλος,
 κράατα δ' εὐφύλλοις ἐστεμμένοι ἀκρεμόνεσσιν,
 ἐμμελέως, Ὀρφῆος ὑπαὶ λίγα φορμίζοντος
 νυμφιδίαις ὑμέναιον ἐπὶ προμολῇσιν ἄειδον. 116
 οὐ μὲν ἐν Ἀλκινόοιο γάμον μενέαινε τελέσσαι
 ἥρως Αἰσονίδης, μεγάροις δ' ἐνὶ πατρὸς ἐοῖο,
 νοστήσας ἐς Ἰωλκὸν ὑπότροπος· ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
 Μῆδεια φρονέεσκε· τότ' αὖ χρεὼ ἦγε μιγῆναι.
 ἀλλὰ γὰρ οὐποτε φῦλα δυηπαθέων ἀνθρώπων
 τερπωλῆς ἐπέβημεν ὅλῳ ποδί· σὺν δέ τις αἰεὶ
 πικρὴ παρμέμβλωκεν ἐυφροσύνησιν ἀνίη.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

to dwell far off, in the sacred cave of the Phaeacians, and granted boundless wealth to the inhabitants. There at that time did they spread a mighty couch ; and thereon they laid the glittering fleece of gold, that so the marriage might be made honoured and the theme of song. And for them nymphs gathered flowers of varied hue and bore them thither in their white bosoms ; and a splendour as of flame played round them all, such a light gleamed from the golden tufts. And in their eyes it kindled a sweet longing ; yet for all her desire, awe withheld each one from laying her hand thereon. Some were called daughters of the river Aegaeus ; others dwelt round the crests of the Meliteian mount ; and others were woodland nymphs from the plains. For Hera herself, the spouse of Zeus, had sent them to do honour to Jason. That cave is to this day called the sacred cave of Medea, where they spread the fine and fragrant linen and brought these two together. And the heroes in their hands wielded their spears for war, lest first a host of foes should burst upon them for battle unawares, and, their heads enwreathed with leafy sprays, all in harmony, while Orpheus' harp rang clear, sang the marriage song at the entrance to the bridal chamber. Yet not in the house of Alcinous was the hero, Aeson's son, minded to complete his marriage, but in his father's hall when he had returned home to Iolcus ; and such was the mind of Medea herself ; but necessity led them to wed at this time. For never in truth do we tribes of woe-stricken mortals tread the path of delight with sure foot ; but still some bitter affliction keeps pace with our joy. Wherefore they too, though their souls were melted

τῷ καὶ τοὺς γλυκερῇ περ ἱαινομένους φιλότῃτι
δεῖμ' ἔχεν, εἰ τελέοιτο διάκρισις Ἀλκινόοιο.

Ἦὼς δ' ἀμβροσίοισιν ἀνερχομένη φαέεσσιν
λῦε κελαινὴν νύκτα δι' ἡέρος· αἱ δ' ἐγέλασαν
ἡῖόνες νήσοιο καὶ ἐρσήεσσαι ἄπωθεν
ἀτραπιτοὶ πεδίων· ἐν δὲ θρόος ἔσκεν ἀγνιαῖς·
κύνυντ' ἐνναέται μὲν ἀνὰ πτόλιν, οἱ δ' ἀποτηλοῦ
Κόλχοι Μακρινίδης ἐπὶ πείρασι χερνήσοιο.
αὐτίκα δ' Ἀλκίνοος μετεβήσετο συνθεσίσῃσιν
ὄν νόον ἐξερέων κούρης ὕπερ· ἐν δ' ὄγε χειρὶ
σκήπτρον ἔχεν χρυσοῖο δικασπόλον, ᾧ ὕπο λαοὶ
ἰθείας ἀνὰ ἄστνυ διεκρίνοντο θέμιστας.

τῷ δὲ καὶ ἐξείης πολεμήια τεύχεα δύντες
Φαιήκων οἱ ἄριστοι ὁμιλαδὸν ἐστιχώωντο.
ἥρωας δὲ γυναιῖκες ἀολλέες ἔκτοθι πύργων
βαῖνον ἐποψόμεναι· σὺν δ' ἀνέρες ἀγροιώται
ἦντεον εἰσαῖοντες, ἐπεὶ νημερτέα βάξι
Ἦρη ἐπιπροέηκεν· ἄγεν δ' ὁ μὲν ἔκκριτον ἄλλων
ἀρνεῖον μῆλων, ὁ δ' ἀεργηλὴν ἔτι πόρτιν·
ἄλλοι δ' ἀμφιφορῆας ἐπισχεδὸν ἵστασαν οἴνου
κίρνασθαι· θυέων δ' ἀποτηλόθι κήκιε λιγνύς.
αἱ δὲ πολυκμήτους ἑανοὺς φέρον, οἷα γυναῖκες,
μείλιά τε χρυσοῖο καὶ ἀλλοίην ἐπὶ τοῖσιν
ἀγλαῖήν, οἷήν τε νεόζυγες ἐντύνονται·
θάμβευν δ' εἰσορόωσαι ἀριπρεπέων ἡρώων
εἶδεα καὶ μορφάς, ἐν δὲ σφισιν Οἰάγροιο
υἶδν ὑπαὶ φόρμιγγος ἐνκρέκτου καὶ αἰοιδῆς
ταρφέα σιγαλόεντι πέδον κροτέοντα πεδίλῳ.
νυμφαὶ δ' αἰμιγα πᾶσαι, ὅτε μνήσαιτο γάμοιο
ἱμερόενθ' ὑμέναιον ἀνήπνουν· ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

with sweet love, were held by fear, whether the sentence of Alcinous would be fulfilled.

Now dawn returning with her beams divine scattered the gloomy night through the sky ; and the island beaches laughed out and the paths over the plains far off, drenched with dew, and there was a din in the streets ; the people were astir throughout the city, and far away the Colchians were astir at the bounds of the isle of Macris. And straightway to them went Alcinous, by reason of his covenant, to declare his purpose concerning the maiden, and in his hand he held a golden staff, his staff of justice, whereby the people had righteous judgments meted out to them throughout the city. And with him in order due and arrayed in their harness of war went marching, band by band, the chiefs of the Phaeacians. And from the towers came forth the women in crowds to gaze upon the heroes ; and the country folk came to meet them when they heard the news, for Hera had sent forth a true report. And one led the chosen ram of his flock, and another a heifer that had never toiled ; and others set hard by jars of wine for mixing ; and the smoke of sacrifice leapt up far away. And women bore fine linen, the fruit of much toil, as women will, and gifts of gold and varied ornaments as well, such as are brought to newly-wedded brides ; and they marvelled when they saw the shapely forms and beauty of the gallant heroes, and among them the son of Oeagrus, oft beating the ground with gleaming sandal, to the time of his loud-ringing lyre and song. And all the nymphs together, whenever he recalled the marriage, uplifted the lovely bridal-chant ; and at times again they sang alone as they

οἴοθεν οἶαι ἄειδον ἐλίσσόμεναι περὶ κύκλον,
 "Ἡρη, σείο ἔκητι· σὺ γὰρ καὶ ἐπὶ φρεσὶ θῆκας
 Ἀρήτην, πυκινὸν φάσθαι ἔπος Ἀλκινόοιο. 1200
 αὐτὰρ ὅγ' ὥς τὰ πρῶτα δίκης ἀνὰ πείρατ' ἔειπεν
 ἰθείης, ἥδη δὲ γάμου τέλος ἐκλήιστο,
 ἔμπεδον ὥς ἀλέγυνε διαμπερές· οὐδέ ἐ τάρβος
 οὐλοόν, οὐδὲ βαρεῖαι ἐπήλυθον Αἰήταο
 μήνιες, ἀρρήκτοισι δ' ἐνιζεύξας ἔχεν ὄρκοις.
 τῷ καὶ ὅτ' ἠλεμάτως Κόλχοι μάθον ἀντιώοντες,
 καὶ σφεας ἡὲ θέμιστας εἰς εἴρυσθαι ἄνωγεν,
 ἢ λιμένων γαίης τ' ἀποτηλόθι γῆρας ἔργειν,
 δὴ τότε μιν βασιλῆος ἐοῦ τρομέοντες ἐνιπὰς
 δέχθαι μειλίξαντο συνήμονας· αὐθι δὲ νήσῳ 1210
 δὴν μάλα Φαιήκεσσι μετ' ἀνδράσι ναιετάασκοι,
 εἰσότε Βακχιάδαι, γενεὴν Ἐφύρηθεν ἑόντες,
 ἀνέρες ἐννάσσαντο μετὰ χρόνον· οἱ δὲ περαῖην
 νῆσον ἔβαν· κεῖθεν δὲ Κεραῦνια μέλλον Ἀβάντων
 οὔρεα, Νεस्ताίους τε καὶ Ὀρικὸν εἰσαφικέσθαι·
 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν στείχοντος ἄδην αἰῶνος ἐτύχθη.
 Μοιράων δ' ἔτι κεῖσε θύη ἐπέτεια δέχονται
 καὶ Νυμφέων Νομίοιο καθ' ἱερὸν Ἀπόλλωνος
 βωμοί, τοὺς Μήδεια καθίσσατο. πολλὰ δ' ἰοῦσιν 1220
 Ἀλκίνοος Μινύαις ξεινήια, πολλὰ δ' ὄπασσεν
 Ἀρήτη· μετὰ δ' αὐτε δυνώδεκα δῶκεν ἔπεσθαι
 Μηδείῃ δμῶας Φαιηκίδας ἐκ μεγάροιο.
 ἥματι δ' ἐβδομάτῳ Δρεπάνην λίπον· ἥλυθε δ' οὔρος
 ἀκραῆς ἠῶθεν ὑπὲκ Διός· οἱ δ' ἀνέμοιο
 πνοιῇ ἐπειγόμενοι προτέρω θεόν. ἀλλὰ γὰρ οὔπω

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

circled in the dance, Hera, in thy honour; for it was thou that didst put it into the heart of Arete to proclaim the wise word of Alcinous. And as soon as he had uttered the decree of his righteous judgement, and the completion of the marriage had been proclaimed, he took care that thus it should abide fixed; and no deadly fear touched him nor Aeetes' grievous wrath, but he kept his judgement fast bound by unbroken oaths. So when the Colchians learnt that they were beseeching in vain and he bade them either observe his judgements or hold their ships away from his harbours and land, then they began to dread the threats of their own king and besought Alcinous to receive them as comrades; and there in the island long time they dwelt with the Phaeacians, until in the course of years, the Bacchiadae, a race sprung from Ephyra,¹ settled among them; and the Colchians passed to an island opposite; and thence they were destined to reach the Ceraunian hills of the Abantes, and the Nestaeans and Oricum; but all this was fulfilled after long ages had passed. And still the altars which Medea built on the spot sacred to Apollo, god of shepherds, receive yearly sacrifices in honour of the Fates and the Nymphs. And when the Minyae departed many gifts of friendship did Alcinous bestow, and many Arete; moreover she gave Medea twelve Phaeacian handmaids from the palace, to bear her company. And on the seventh day they left Drepane; and at dawn came a fresh breeze from Zeus. And onward they sped borne along by the wind's breath. Howbeit not yet was

¹ The old name of Corinth.

αἴσιμον ἦν ἐπιβῆναι Ἀχαιίδος ἠρώεσσιν,
ὄφρ' ἔτι καὶ Λιβύης ἐπὶ πείρασιν ὀτλήσειαν.

Ἦδη μὲν ποθι κόλπον ἐπώνυμον Ἀμβρακιήων,
ἤδη Κουρήτιν ἔλιπον χθόνα πεπταμένοισιν
λαΐφεσι καὶ στεινὰς αὐταῖς σὺν Ἐχινάσι νήσους
ἐξείης, Πέλοπος δὲ νέον κατεφαίνετο γαῖα·
καὶ τότε ἀναρπάγδην ὅλοη βορέας θυέλλα
μεσσηγὺς πέλαγόςδε Λιβυστικὸν ἐννέα πάσας
νύκτας ὁμῶς καὶ τόσσα φέρ' ἡματα, μέχρις ἵκοντο
προπρὸ μάλ' ἐνδοθι Σύρτιν, ὅθ' οὐκέτι νόστος
ὀπίσσω

νηυσὶ πέλει, ὅτε τόνγε βιώατο κόλπον ἰκέσθαι.
πάντῃ γὰρ τέναγος, πάντῃ μνιόεντα βυθοῖο
τάρφεα· κούφη δὲ σφιν ἐπιβλύει ὕδατος ἄχνη·
ἡερίῃ δ' ἄμαθος παρακέκλιται· οὐδέ τι κείσε
ἐρπετόν, οὐδὲ ποτητὸν αἶρεται. ἐνθ' ἄρα τούσγε
πλημμυρίς—καὶ γάρ τ' ἀναχάζεται ἡπείροιο
ἢ θαμὰ δὴ τότε χεῦμα, καὶ ἄψ' ἐπερεύγεται ἀκτὰς
λάβρον ἐποیحόμενον—μυχάτῃ ἐνέωσε τάχιστα
ἡϊόνι, τρόπιος δὲ μάλ' ὕδασι παῦρον ἔλειπτο.
οἱ δ' ἀπὸ νηὸς ὄρουσαν, ἄχος δ' ἔλεν εἰσορόοντας
ἡέρα καὶ μεγάλης νῶτα χθονὸς ἡέρι ἴσα,
τηλοῦ ὑπερτείνοντα διηνεκές· οὐδέ τιν' ἀρδμόν,
οὐ πάτον, οὐκ ἀπάνευθε κατηυγάσσαντο βοτήρων
αὔλιον, εὐκλήλῳ δὲ κατείχετο πάντα γαλήνῃ.
ἄλλος δ' αὖτ' ἄλλον τετιημένος ἐξερέεινεν·

‘Τίς χθὼν εὐχεται ἦδε; πόθι ξυνέωσαν ἄελλαι
ἡμέας; αἰθ' ἔτλημεν, ἀφειδέες οὐλομένοιο
δείματος, αὐτὰ κέλευθα διαμπερὲς ὀρμηθῆναι
πετράων. ἢ τ' ἂν καὶ ὑπὲρ Διὸς αἴσαν ἰοῦσιν
βέλτερον ἦν μέγα δὴ τι μενοινώοντας ὀλέσθαι.
νῦν δὲ τί κεν ῥέξαιμεν, ἐρυκόμενοι ἀνέμοισιν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

it ordained for the heroes to set foot on Achaea, until they had toiled even in the furthest bounds of Libya.

Now had they left behind the gulf named after the Ambracians, now with sails wide spread the land of the Curetes, and next in order the narrow islands with the Echinades, and the land of Pelops was just descried; even then a baleful blast of the north wind seized them in mid-course and swept them towards the Libyan sea nine nights and as many days, until they came far within Syrtis, wherefrom is no return for ships, when they are once forced into that gulf. For on every hand are shoals, on every hand masses of seaweed from the depths; and over them the light foam of the wave washes without noise; and there is a stretch of sand to the dim horizon; and there moveth nothing that creeps or flies. Here accordingly the flood-tide—for this tide often retreats from the land and bursts back again over the beach coming on with a rush and roar—thrust them suddenly on to the innermost shore, and but little of the keel was left in the water. And they leapt forth from the ship, and sorrow seized them when they gazed on the mist and the levels of vast land stretching far like a mist and continuous into the distance; no spot for water, no path, no steading of herdsmen did they descry afar off, but all the scene was possessed by a dead calm. And thus did one hero, vexed in spirit, ask another:

“What land is this? Whither has the tempest hurled us? Would that, reckless of deadly fear, we had dared to rush on by that same path between the clashing rocks! Better were it to have overleapt the will of Zeus and perished in venturing some mighty deed. But now what should we do, held back

αὐθι μένειν τυτθὸν περ ἐπὶ χρόνον; οἷον ἐρήμη
πέζα διωλυγίης ἀναπέπταται ἠπείροιο.

᾽Ως ἄρ' ἔφη· μετὰ δ' αὐτὸς ἀμνηχανίῃ κακότητος
ἰθυντὴρ Ἀγκαῖος ἀκηχέμενος ἀγόρευσεν.

126

᾽Ωλόμεθ' αἰνότατον δῆθεν μόρον, οὐδ' ὑπάλυξίς
ἔστ' ἄτης· πάρα δ' ἄμμι τὰ κύντατα πημανθῆναι
τῇδ' ὑπ' ἐρημαίῃ πεπτηότας, εἰ καὶ ἀῆται
χερσόθεν ἀμπνεύσειαν· ἐπεὶ τεναγώδεα λεύσσω
τῆλε περισκοπέων ἄλα πάντοθεν· ἥλιθα δ' ὕδωρ
ξαινόμενον πολιῆσιν ἐπιτροχάει ψαμάθοισιν.
καὶ κεν ἐπισμυγερώς διὰ δὴ πάλαι ἥδ' ἐκεάσθη
νηὺς ἱερὴ χέρσου πολλὸν πρόσω· ἀλλὰ μιν αὐτὴ
πλημμυρὶς ἐκ πόντοιο μεταχθονίην ἐκόμισσεν.
νῦν δ' ἡ μὲν πέλαγόςδε μετέσσυται, οἴοθι δ' ἄλμη
ἄπλοος εἰλεῖται, γαίης ὕπερ ὅσσον ἔχουσα.
τουνεκ' ἐγὼ πᾶσαν μὲν ἀπ' ἐλπίδα φημὶ κεκόφθαι
ναυτιλίας νόστου τε. δαημοσύνην δέ τις ἄλλος
φαίνοι ἐήν¹· πάρα γάρ οἱ ἐπ' οἰήκεσσι θαάσσειν
μαιομένω κομιδῆς. ἀλλ' οὐ μάλα νόστιμον ἡμαρ
Ζεὺς ἐθέλει καμάτοισιν ἐφ' ἡμετέροισι τελέσσαι.

1270

᾽Ως φάτο δακρυόεις· σὺν δ' ἔννεπον ἀσχαλόωντι
ὅσσοι ἔσαν νηῶν δεδαημένοι· ἐν δ' ἄρα πᾶσιν
παχνώθη κραδίη, χύτο δὲ χλόος ἀμφὶ παρειάς.
οἶον δ' ἀψύχοισιν εἰκότες εἰδώλοισιν
ἄνδρες εἰλίσσονται ἀνὰ πτόλιν, ἢ πολέμοιο
ἢ λοιμοῖο τέλος ποτιδέγμενοι, ἢ τέ τιν' ὄμβρον
ἄσπετον, ὅστε βοῶν κατὰ μυρία ἔκλυσεν ἔργα,
ἢ ὅταν αὐτόματα ξόανα ῥέη ἰδρώοντα
αἵματι, καὶ μυκαὶ σηκοῖς ἐνὶ φαντάζωνται,
ἢ καὶ ἡέλιος μέσῳ ἡματι νύκτ' ἐπάγησιν

1280

¹ φαίνοι ἐήν Madvig: φαίνοιεν LG.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

by the winds to stay here, if ever so short a time ?
How desolate looms before us the edge of the
limitless land ! ”

Thus one spake ; and among them Ancaeus the
helmsman, in despair at their evil case, spoke with
grieving heart : “ Verily we are undone by a terrible
doom ; there is no escape from ruin ; we must suffer
the cruellest woes, having fallen on this desolation,
even though breezes should blow from the land ; for,
as I gaze far around, on every side do I behold a sea
of shoals, and masses of water, fretted line upon line,
run over the hoary sand. And miserably long ago
would our sacred ship have been shattered far from
the shore ; but the tide itself bore her high on to the
land from the deep sea. But now the tide rushes
back to the sea, and only the foam, whereon no ship
can sail, rolls round us, just covering the land. Where-
fore I deem that all hope of our voyage and of our
return is cut off. Let someone else show his skill ;
let him sit at the helm—the man that is eager for
our deliverance. But Zeus has no will to fulfil our
day of return after all our toils.”

Thus he spake with tears, and all of them that had
knowledge of ships agreed thereto ; but the hearts of
all grew numb, and pallor overspread their cheeks.
And as, like lifeless spectres, men roam through a
city awaiting the issue of war or of pestilence, or
some mighty storm which overwhelms the countless
labours of oxen, when the images of their own
accord sweat and run down with blood, and bellowings
are heard in temples, or when at mid-day the sun
draws on night from heaven, and the stars shine

οὐρανόθεν, τὰ δὲ λαμπρὰ δι' ἡέρος ἄστρα φαείνη·¹
 ὥς τότ' ἀριστῆες δολιχοῦ πρόπαρ αἰγιαλοῖο
 ἤλυον ἐρπύζοντες. ἐπήλυθε δ' αὐτίκ' ἐρεμνὴ
 ἕσπερος· οἱ δ' ἐλεεινὰ χεροῖν σφέας ἀμφιβαλόντες 129
 δακρυόειν ἀγάπαζον, ἵν' ἀνδιχα δῆθεν ἕκαστος
 θυμὸν ἀποφθίσειαν ἐνὶ ψαμάθοισι πεσόντες.
 βὰν δ' ἴμεν ἄλλυδις ἄλλος ἕκαστέρω αὐλιν ἐλέσθαι·
 ἐν δὲ κάρη πέπλοισι καλυψάμενοι σφετέροισιν
 ἄκμηνοι καὶ ἄπαστοι ἐκείατο νύκτ' ἐπὶ πᾶσαν
 καὶ φάος, οἰκτίστῳ θανάτῳ ἐπὶ. νόσφι δὲ κοῦραι
 ἀθρόαι Αἰήταο παρεστενάχοντο θυγατρί.
 ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐρهماῖοι πεπτηότες ἔκτοθι πέτρης
 χηραμοῦ ἀπτήνες λιγέα κλάζουσι νεοσσοί· 1300
 ἢ ὅτε καλὰ νάοντος ἐπ' ὀφρύσι Πακτωλοῖο
 κύκνοι κινήσωσιν ἐὼν μέλος, ἀμφὶ δὲ λειμῶν
 ἐρσήεις βρέμεται ποταμοῖό τε καλὰ ῥέεθρα·
 ὥς αἱ ἐπὶ ξανθὰς θέμεναι κονίησιν ἐθείρας
 παννύχαι ἐλεεινὸν ἠήλεμον ὠδύροντο.
 καὶ νῦ κεν αὐτοῦ πάντες ἀπὸ ζωῆς ἐλίαςθεν
 νώνυμοι καὶ ἄφαντοι ἐπιχθονίοισι δαῖναι
 ἡρώων οἱ ἄριστοι ἀνηνύστῳ ἐπ' ἀέθλῳ·
 ἀλλὰ σφας ἐλέηραν ἀμηχανίῃ μινύθοντας
 ἡρῶσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι, αἱ ποτ' Ἀθήνην, 1310
 ἦμος ὅτ' ἐκ πατρὸς κεφαλῆς θόρε παμφαίνουσα,
 ἀντόμεναι Τρίτωνος ἐφ' ὕδασι χυτλώσαντο.
 ἔνδιον ἡμαρ ἔην, περὶ δ' ὀξύταται θέρον αὐγαὶ
 ἡελίου Λιβύην· αἱ δὲ σχεδὸν Αἰσονίδαο
 ἔσταν, ἔλον δ' ἀπὸ χερσὶ καρήατος ἡρέμα πέπλον.
 αὐτὰρ ὅγ' εἰς ἐτέρωσε παλιμπετὲς ὄμματ' ἔνεικεν,
 δαίμονας αἰδεσθεῖς· αὐτὸν δέ μιν ἀμφαδὸν οἶον
 μειλιχίοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀτυζόμενον προσέειπον·

¹ φαείνη Brunck : φαῖνοι L : φαίνει G.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

clear through the mist; so at that time along the endless strand the chieftains wandered, groping their way. Then straightway dark evening came upon them; and piteously did they embrace each other and say farewell with tears, that they might, each one apart from his fellow, fall on the sand and die. And this way and that they went further to choose a resting-place; and they wrapped their heads in their cloaks and, fasting and unfed, lay down all that night and the day, awaiting a piteous death. But apart the maidens huddled together lamented beside the daughter of Aeetes. And as when, forsaken by their mother, unfledged birds that have fallen from a cleft in the rock chirp shrilly; or when by the banks of fair-flowing Pactolus, swans raise their song, and all around the dewy meadow echoes and the river's fair stream; so these maidens, laying in the dust their golden hair, all through the night wailed their piteous lament. And there all would have parted from life without a name and unknown to mortal men, those bravest of heroes, with their task unfulfilled; but as they pined in despair, the heroine-nymphs, warders of Libya, had pity on them, they who once found Athena, what time she leapt in gleaming armour from her father's head, and bathed her by Triton's waters. It was noon-tide and the fiercest rays of the sun were scorching Libya; they stood near Aeson's son, and lightly drew the cloak from his head. And the hero cast down his eyes and looked aside, in reverence for the goddesses, and as he lay bewildered all alone they addressed him openly with gentle words:

‘Κάμμορε, τίπτ’ ἐπὶ τόσσον ἀμηχανίῃ βεβό-
λησαι;

ἴδμεν ἐποιχομένους χρύσειον δέρος· ἴδμεν ἕκαστα
ὑμετέρων καμάτων, ὅς’ ἐπὶ χθονός, ὅσσα τ’ ἐφ’ ὕγρην 13:
πλαζόμενοι κατὰ πόντον ὑπέρβια ἔργ’ ἐκάμεσθε.
οἰοπόλοι δ’ εἰμὲν χθόνιαι θεαὶ αὐδήεσσαι,
ἡρῶσσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι ἡδὲ θύγατρες.
ἀλλ’ ἀνα· μηδ’ ἔτι τοῖον οἰζύνων ἀκάχησο·
ἄνστησον δ’ ἐτάρους. εὖτ’ ἂν δέ τοι Ἀμφιτρίτη
ἄρμα Ποσειδάωνος εὐτροχον αὐτίκα λύσῃ,
δὴ ῥα τότε σφετέρῃ ἀπὸ μητέρι τίνετ’ ἀμοιβὴν
ὧν ἔκαμεν δηρὸν κατὰ νηδύος ὕμμε φέρουσα·
καὶ κεν ἔτ’ ἡγαθέην ἐς Ἀχαιίδα νοστήσαιτε.’

ᾧ Ως ἄρ’ ἔφαν, καὶ ἄφαντοι ἔν’ ἔσταθεν, ἔνθ’ ἄρα
ταίγε

φθογγῇ ὁμοῦ ἐγένοντο παρασχεδόν. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
παπτήνας ἂν’ ἄρ’ ἔζετ’ ἐπὶ χθονός, ὧδέ τ’ ἔειπεν·

“Ἰλατ’ ἐρημονόμοι κυδραὶ θεαί· ἀμφὶ δὲ νόστῳ
οὔτι μαλ’ ἀντικρὺ νοέω φάτιν. ἥ μὲν ἐταίρους
εἰς ἐν ἀγειράμενος μυθήσομαι, εἰ νύ τι τέκμων
δήωμεν κομιδῆς· πολέων δέ τε μῆτις ἀρείων.”

Ἦ, καὶ ἀναίξας ἐτάρους ἐπὶ μακρὸν αὖτει,
αὐσταλέος κονίῃσι, λέων ὧς, ὅς ῥά τ’ ἂν ὕλην
σύννομον ἦν μεθέπων ὠρύεται· αἱ δὲ βαρεῖη
φθογγῇ ὑποτρομέουσιν ἂν’ οὔρεα τηλόθι βῆσαι· 134:
δείματι δ’ ἄγραυλοί τε βόες μέγα πεφρίκασιν
βουπελάται τε βοῶν· τοῖς δ’ οὔ νύ τι γῆρυς ἐτύχθη
ρίγεδανῇ ἐτάριοιο φίλους ἐπικεκλομένοιο.
ἀγχοῦ δ’ ἡγερέθοντο κατηφέες· αὐτὰρ ὁ τούσγε
ἀχθυμένους ὄρμοιο πέλας μίγα θηλυτέρησιν
ιδρύσας, μυθεῖτο πιφανσκόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

“Ill-starred one, why art thou so smitten with despair? We know how ye went in quest of the golden fleece; we know each toil of yours, all the mighty deeds ye wrought in your wanderings over land and sea. We are the solitary ones, goddesses of the land, speaking with human voice, the heroines, Libya’s warders and daughters. Up then; be not thus afflicted in thy misery, and rouse thy comrades. And when Amphitrite has straightway loosed Poseidon’s swift-wheeled car, then do ye pay to your mother a recompense for all her travail when she bare you so long in her womb; and so ye may return to the divine land of Achaea.”

Thus they spake, and with the voice vanished at once, where they stood. But Jason sat upon the earth as he gazed around, and thus cried:

“Be gracious, noble goddesses of the desert, yet the saying about our return I understand not clearly. Surely I will gather together my comrades and tell them, if haply we can find some token of our escape, for the counsel of many is better.”

He spake, and leapt to his feet, and shouted afar to his comrades, all squalid with dust, like a lion when he roars through the woodland seeking his mate; and far off in the mountains the glens tremble at the thunder of his voice; and the oxen of the field and the herdsmen shudder with fear; yet to them Jason’s voice was no whit terrible—the voice of a comrade calling to his friends. And with looks downcast they gathered near, and hard by where the ship lay he made them sit down in their grief and the women with them, and addressed them and told them everything:

‘Κλῦτε, φίλοι· τρεῖς γάρ μοι ἀνιάζοντι θεάων,
στέρφεσιν αἰγείοις ἐζωσμένοι ἐξ ὑπάτοιο
αὐχένος ἀμφί τε νῶτα καὶ ἰξύας, ἥντε κοῦραι,
ἔσταν ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς μάλ’ ἐπισχεδόν· ἂν δ’ ἐκά-
λυψαν

1350

πέπλον ἐρυσσάμεναι κούφη χερί, καί μ’ ἐκέλοντο
αὐτόν τ’ ἔγρεσθαι, ἀνά θ’ ὑμέας ὄρσαι ἰόντα·
μητέρι δὲ σφετέρῃ μενοεικέα τίσαι ἄμοιβῇ
ὦν ἔκαμεν δηρὸν κατὰ νηδύος ἅμμε φέρουσα
ὀππότε κεν λύσῃσιν εὐτροχον Ἀμφιτρίτη
ἄρμα Ποσειδάωνος. ἐγὼ δ’ οὐ πάγχυ νοῆσαι
τῆσδε θεοπροπίης ἴσχω πέρι. φάν γε μὲν εἶναι
ἡρῶσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι ἠδὲ θύγατρες·
καὶ δ’ ὀπός’ αὐτοὶ πρόσθεν ἐπὶ χθονὸς ἠδ’ ὅσ’ ἐφ’
ὕγρην

ἔτλημεν, τὰ ἕκαστα διίδμεναι εὐχετόωντο.
οὐδ’ ἔτι τάσδ’ ἀνὰ χῶρον ἐσέδρακον, ἀλλὰ τις
ἄχλυσ

1360

ἢ νέφος μεσσηγὺ φαεινομένας ἐκάλυψεν·

‘Ὡς ἔφαθ’· οἱ δ’ ἄρα πάντες ἐθάμβεον εἰσαῖοντες.
ἔνθα τὸ μήκιστον τεράων Μινύησιν ἐτύχθη.
ἐξ ἄλὸς ἡπειρόνδε πελώριος ἔκθορεν ἵππος,
ἀμφιλαφής, χρυσέῃσι μετήορος αὐχένα χαίταις·
ρίμφα δὲ σεισάμενος γυίων ἅπο νήχυτον ἄλμην
ᾠρτο θέειν, πνοιῇ ἱκελος πόδας. αἶψα δὲ Πηλεὺς
γῆθῆσας ἐτάροισιν ὀμηγερέεσσι μετηύδα·

‘Ἄρματα μὲν δὴ φημι Ποσειδάωνος ἔγωγε
ἤδη νῦν ἀλόχοιο φίλης ὑπὸ χερσὶ λελύσθαι·
μητέρα δ’ οὐκ ἄλλην προτιόσσομαι, ἥ ἐπερ αὐτὴν
νῆα πέλειν· ἥ γὰρ κατὰ νηδύος ἅμμε φέρουσα
νωλεμὲς ἀργαλέοισιν οἰζύνει καμάτοισιν.
ἀλλὰ μιν ἄστεμφεῖ τε βίῃ καὶ ἀτειρέσιν ὥμοις

1370

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

“Listen, friends; as I lay in my grief, three goddesses girded with goat-skins from the neck downwards round the back and waist, like maidens, stood over my head nigh at hand; and they uncovered me, drawing my cloak away with light hand, and they bade me rise up myself and go and rouse you, and pay to our mother a bounteous recompense for all her travail when she bare us so long in her womb, when Amphitrite shall have loosed Poseidon’s swift-wheeled car. But I cannot fully understand concerning this divine message. They said indeed that they were heroines, Libya’s warders and daughters; and all the toils that we endured aforetime by land and sea, all these they declared that they knew full well. Then I saw them no more in their place, but a mist or cloud came between and hid them from my sight.”

Thus he spake, and all marvelled as they heard. Then was wrought for the Minyae the strangest of portents. From the sea to the land leapt forth a monstrous horse, of vast size, with golden mane tossing round his neck; and quickly from his limbs he shook off abundant spray and started on his course, with feet like the wind. And at once Peleus rejoiced and spake among the throng of his comrades:

“I deem that Poseidon’s car has even now been loosed by the hands of his dear wife, and I divine that our mother is none else than our ship herself; for surely she bare us in her womb and groans unceasingly with grievous travailing. But with unshaken strength and untiring shoulders will we

ὑψόθεν ἀνθέμενοι ψαμαθώδεος ἔνδοθι γαίης
οἴσομεν, ἥ προτέρωσε ταχὺς πόδας ἤλασεν ἵππος.
οὐ γὰρ ὄγε ξηρὴν ὑποδύσεται· ἔχνια δ' ἡμῖν
σημανέειν τιν' ἔολπα μυχὸν καθύπερθε θαλάσσης·

Ὡς ἡὔδα· πάντεσσι δ' ἐπήβολος ἦνδανε μῆτις. 1380

Μουσάων ὅδε μῦθος· ἐγὼ δ' ὑπακουὸς αἰίδω
Πιερίδων, καὶ τήνδε πανατρεκὲς ἔκλυον ὀμφήν,
ὑμέας, ὧ περὶ δὴ μέγα φέρτατοι νῆες ἀνάκτων,
ἥ βίῃ ἥ τ' ἀρετῇ Λιβύης ἀνὰ θίνας ἐρήμους
νῆα μεταχρονίην ὅσα τ' ἔνδοθι νηὸς ἄγεσθε,
ἀνθεμένους ὥμοισι φέρειν δυοκαίδεκα πάντα
ἡμαθ' ὁμοῦ νύκτας τε. δύην γε μὲν ἥ καὶ οἰζὺν
τίς κ' ἐνέποι, τὴν κεῖνοι ἀνέπλησαν μογέοντες;
ἔμπεδον ἀθανάτων ἔσαν αἵματος, οἷον ὑπέσταν
ἔργον, ἀναγκαίῃ βεβιημένοι. αὐτὰρ ἐπιπρὸ
τῆλε μάλ' ἀσπασίως Τριτωνίδος ὕδασι λίμνης
ὥς φέρον, ὥς εἰσβάντες ἀπὸ στιβαρῶν θέσαν ὥμων.

1390

Λυσσαλέοις δ' ἥπειτ' ἵκελοι κυσὶν αἰσسونτες
πίδακα μαστεύεσκον· ἐπὶ ξηρῇ γὰρ ἔκειτο
δίψα δυηπαθίῃ τε καὶ ἄλγεσιν, οὐδ' ἐμάτησαν
πλαζόμενοι· ἴξον δ' ἱερὸν πέδον, ᾧ ἐνὶ Λάδων
εἰσέτι που χθιζὸν παγχρύσεια ῥύετο μῆλα
χώρῳ ἐν Ἀτλαντος, χθόνιος ὄφιν· ἀμφὶ δὲ νύμφαι
Ἑσπερίδες ποίπνυνον, ἐφίμερον αἰείδουσαι.
δὴ τότε δ' ἦτοι τῆμος ὕφ' Ἡρακλῆι δαίχθεις
μῆλειον βέβλητο ποτὶ στύπος· οἰόθι δ' ἄκρῃ
οὐρῇ ἔτι σκαίρεσκεν· ἀπὸ κρατὸς δὲ κελαινὴν
ἄχρην ἐπ' ἄκνηστιν κείτ' ἄπνοος· ἐκ δὲ λιπόντων
ὕδρης Λερναίης χόλον αἵματι πικρὸν οἰστῶν
μυῖαι πυθομένοισιν ἐφ' ἑλκεσι τερσαίνοντο.
ἀγχοῦ δ' Ἑσπερίδες κεφαλαῖς ἐπὶ χεῖρας ἔχουσαι

1400

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

lift her up and bear her within this country of sandy wastes, where yon swift-footed steed has sped before. For he will not plunge beneath the earth ; and his hoof-prints, I ween, will point us to some bay above the sea."

Thus he spake, and the fit counsel pleased all. This is the tale the Muses told ; and I sing obedient to the Pierides, and this report have I heard most truly ; that ye, O mightiest far of the sons of kings, by your might and your valour over the desert sands of Libya raised high aloft on your shoulders the ship and all that ye brought therein, and bare her twelve days and nights alike. Yet who could tell the pain and grief which they endured in that toil ? Surely they were of the blood of the immortals, such a task did they take on them, constrained by necessity. How forward and how far they bore her gladly to the waters of the Tritonian lake ! How they strode in and set her down from their stalwart shoulders !

Then, like raging hounds, they rushed to search for a spring ; for besides their suffering and anguish, a parching thirst lay upon them, and not in vain did they wander ; but they came to the sacred plain where Ladon, the serpent of the land, till yesterday kept watch over the golden apples in the garden of Atlas ; and all around the nymphs, the Hesperides, were busied, chanting their lovely song. But at that time, stricken by Heracles, he lay fallen by the trunk of the apple-tree ; only the tip of his tail was still writhing ; but from his head down his dark spine he lay lifeless ; and where the arrows had left in his blood the bitter gall of the Lernaean hydra, flies withered and died over the festering wounds. And close at hand the Hesperides, their white arms

ἀργυφέας ξανθῇσι λίγ' ἔστενον· οἱ δ' ἐπέλασσαν
ἄφνω ὁμοῦ· ταῖ δ' αἶψα κόνις καὶ γαῖα, κiónτων
ἔσσυμένως, ἐγένοντο καταυτόθι. νώσατο δ' Ὀρφεὺς
θεῖα τέρα, τὰς δέ σφι παρηγορέεσκε λιτῇσιν·

1410

‘Δαίμονες ὦ καλαὶ καὶ εὐφρονες, ἴλατ', ἄνασσαι,
εἴτ' οὖν οὐρανίαις ἐναρίθμιοί ἐστε θεῆσιν,
εἴτε καταχθονίαις, εἴτ' οἰοπόλοι καλέεσθε
νύμφαι· ἴτ', ὦ νύμφαι, ἱερὸν γένος Ὠκεανοῖο,
δείξατ' ἐελδομένοισιν ἐνωπαδὶς ἄμμι φανείσαι
ἢ τινα πετραίην χύσιν ὕδατος, ἢ τινα γαίης
ἱερὸν ἐκβλύοντα, θεαί, ῥόον, ᾧ ἀπὸ δίψαν
αἰθομένην ἄμοτον λωφήσομεν. εἰ δέ κεν αὖτις
δὴ ποτ' Ἀχαιίδα γυῖαν ἰκώμεθα ναυτιλίῃσιν,
δὴ τότε μυρία δῶρα μετὰ πρώτῃσι θεείων
λοιβάς τ' εἰλαπίνας τε παρέξομεν εὐμενέοντες.’

1420

Ὡς φάτο λισσόμενος ἀδινῇ ὀπί· ταῖ δ' ἐλέαιρον
ἐγγύθεν ἀχνυμένους· καὶ δὴ χθονὸς ἐξανέτειλαν
ποίην πάμπρωτον· ποίης γε μὲν ὑψόθι μακροὶ
βλάστεόν ὄρπηκες· μετὰ δ' ἔρνεα τηλεθάοντα
πολλὸν ὑπὲρ γαίης ὀρθοσταδὸν ἤέζοντο.

Ἐσπέρη, αἰγείρος, πτελέη δ' Ἐρυθθὶς ἔγεντο·
Αἶγλη δ' ἰτείης ἱερὸν στύπος. ἐκ δέ νυ κείνων
δενδρέων, οἶαι ἔσαν, τοῖαι πάλιν ἔμπεδον αὐτως
ἐξέφανεν, θάμβος περιώσιον, ἔκφατο δ' Αἶγλη
μειλιχίοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀμειβομένη χατέοντας·

1430

‘Ἡ ἄρα δὴ μέγα πάμπαν ἐφ' ὑμετέροισιν ὄνειαρ
δεῦρ' ἔμολεν καμάτοισιν ὁ κύντατος, ὅστις ἀπούρας
φρουρὸν ὄφιν ζωῆς παγχρύσεια μῆλα θεάων
οἴχετ' ἀειράμενος· στυγερὸν δ' ἄχος ἄμμι λέλειπται.
ἦλυθε γὰρ χθιζὸς τις ἀνὴρ ὀλοώτατος ὕβριν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

flung over their golden heads, lamented shrilly ; and the heroes drew near suddenly ; but the maidens, at their quick approach, at once became dust and earth where they stood. Orpheus marked the divine portent, and for his comrades addressed them in prayer : “ O divine ones, fair and kind, be gracious, O queens, whether ye be numbered among the heavenly goddesses, or those beneath the earth, or be called the Solitary nymphs ; come, O nymphs, sacred race of Oceanus, appear manifest to our longing eyes and show us some spring of water from the rock or some sacred flow gushing from the earth, goddesses, wherewith we may quench the thirst that burns us unceasingly. And if ever again we return in our voyaging to the Achæan land, then to you among the first of goddesses with willing hearts will we bring countless gifts, libations and banquets.”

So he spake, beseeching them with plaintive voice ; and they from their station near pitied their pain ; and lo ! first of all they caused grass to spring from the earth ; and above the grass rose up tall shoots ; and then flourishing saplings grew standing upright far above the earth. Hespere became a poplar and Eretheis an elm, and Aegle a willow's sacred trunk. And forth from these trees their forms looked out, as clear as they were before, a marvel exceeding great, and Aegle spake with gentle words answering their longing looks :

“ Surely there has come hither a mighty succour to your toils, that most accursèd man, who robbed our guardian serpent of life and plucked the golden apples of the goddesses and is gone ; and has left bitter grief for us. For yesterday came a man most

καὶ δέμας· ὅσσε δέ οἱ βλοσυρῷ ὑπέλαμπε μετώπῳ·
 νηλῆς· ἀμφὶ δὲ δέρμα πελωρίου ἔστο λέοντος
 ὠμόν, ἀδέψητον· στιβαρὸν δ' ἔχεν ὄζον ἐλαίης
 τόξα τε, τοῖσι πέλωρ τόδ' ἀπέφθισεν ἰοβολήσας. 1440
 ἦλυθε δ' οὖν κἀκεῖνος, ἅτε χθόνα πεζὸς ὀδεύων,
 δίψῃ καρχαλέος· παίφασσε δὲ τόνδ' ἀνὰ χῶρον,
 ὕδωρ ἐξερέων, τὸ μὲν οὐ ποθι μέλλεν ιδέσθαι.
 ἦδε δέ τις πέτρη Τριτωνίδος ἐγγύθι λίμνης·
 τὴν ὄγ' ἐπιφρασθεῖς, ἣ καὶ θεοῦ ἐννεσίησιν,
 λὰξ ποδὶ τύψεν ἔνερθε· τὸ δ' ἀθρόον ἔβλυσεν ὕδωρ.
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἄμφω χεῖρε πέδῳ καὶ στέρνον ἐρείσας
 ῥωγάδος ἐκ πέτρης πῖεν ἄσπετον, ὄφρα βαθείαν
 νηδύν, φορβάδι ἴσος ἐπιπροπεσών, ἐκορέσθη.'

ᾧ φάτο· τοῖ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἵνα σφίσινι πέφραδεν

Αἴγλη

1450

πίδακα, τῇ θεὸν αἶψα κεχαρμένοι, ὄφρ' ἐπέκυρσαν.
 ὥς δ' ὁπότε στεινὴν περὶ χηραμὸν εἰλίσσονται
 γειομόροι μύρμηκες ὀμιλαδόν, ἣ ὅτε μυῖαι
 ἀμφ' ὀλίγην μέλιτος γλυκεροῦ λίβα πεπτηνῦναι
 ἀπλητον μεμάασιν ἐπήτριμοι· ὥς τότε ἀολλεῖς
 πετραίῃ Μινύαι περὶ πίδακι δινεύεσκον.
 καὶ πού τις διεροῖς ἐπὶ χεῖλεσιν εἶπεν ἰανθεῖς·

ᾧ πόποι, ἣ καὶ νόσφιν ἔων ἐσάωσεν ἐταίρους
 Ἡρακλῆς δίψῃ κεκμηότας· ἀλλὰ μιν εἴ πως
 δίοιμεν στείχοντα δι' ἠπείροιο κιόντες.' 1460

Ἡ, καὶ ἀμειβομένων, οἷτ' ἄρμενοι ἐς τόδε ἔργον,
 ἔκριθεν ἄλλυδις ἄλλος ἐπαΐξας ἐρεεῖνιν.
 ἵχνια γὰρ νυχίοισιν ἐπηλίνδητ' ἀνέμοισιν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

fell in wanton violence, most grim in form ; and his eyes flashed beneath his scowling brow ; a ruthless wretch ; and he was clad in the skin of a monstrous lion of raw hide, untanned ; and he bare a sturdy bow of olive, and a bow, wherewith he shot and killed this monster here. So he too came, as one traversing the land on foot, parched with thirst ; and he rushed wildly through this spot, searching for water, but nowhere was he like to see it. Now here stood a rock near the Tritonian lake ; and of his own device, or by the prompting of some god, he smote it below with his foot ; and the water gushed out in full flow. And he, leaning both his hands and chest upon the ground, drank a huge draught from the rifted rock, until, stooping like a beast of the field, he had satisfied his mighty maw.” — 1

Thus she spake ; and they gladly with joyful steps ran to the spot where Aegle had pointed out to them the spring, until they reached it. And as when earth-burrowing ants gather in swarms round a narrow cleft, or when flies lighting upon a tiny drop of sweet honey cluster round with insatiate eagerness ; so at that time, huddled together, the Minyae thronged about the spring from the rock. And thus with wet lips one cried to another in his delight :

“Strange ! In very truth Heracles, though far away, has saved his comrades, fordone with thirst. Would that we might find him on his way as we pass through the mainland !”

So they spake, and those who were ready for this work answered, and they separated this way and that, each starting to search. For by the night winds the footsteps had been effaced where the sand

κινυμένης ἀμάθου. Βορέας μὲν ὠρμήθησαν
 υἷε δύω, πτερύγεσσι πεποιθότε· ποσσὶ δὲ κούφοις
 Εὐφημος πύσυνος, Λυγκεὺς γε μὲν ὄξέα τηλοῦ
 ὅσσε βαλεῖν· πέμπτος δὲ μετὰ σφίσιν ἔσσυτο
 Κάνθος.

τὸν μὲν ἄρ' αἶσα θεῶν κείνην ὁδὸν ἠγορήε τε
 ὦρσεν, ἵν' Ἡρακλῆος ἀπηλεγέως πεπύθοιο,
 Εἰλατίδην Πολύφημον ὅπη λίπε· μέμβλετο γάρ οἱ 1470
 οὐ ἔθεν ἀμφ' ἐτάριοιο μεταλλῆσαι τὰ ἕκαστα.
 ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν οὖν Μυσοῖσιν ἐπικλεῖς ἄστνυ πολίσσας
 νόστου κηδοσύνησιν ἔβη διζήμενος Ἀργῶ
 τῇλε δι' ἠπείριοιο· τέως δ' ἐξέκετο γαῖαν
 ἀγχιάλων Χαλύβων· τόθι μιν καὶ Μοῖρ' ἐδάμασ-
 σεν.

καὶ οἱ ὑπὸ βλωθρὴν ἀχερωίδα σῆμα τέτυκται
 τυτθὸν ἁλὸς προπάροιθεν. ἀτὰρ τότε γ' Ἡρακλῆα
 μοῦνον ἀπειρεσίης τηλοῦ χθονὸς εἶσατο Λυγκεὺς
 τῶς ἰδέειν, ὥς τις τε νέφ' ἐνὶ ἡματι μῆνην
 ἦ ἶδεν, ἦ ἐδόκησεν ἐπαχλύουσαν ἰδέσθαι. 1480
 εἰς δ' ἐτάρους ἀνιῶν μυθήσατο, μή μιν ἔτ' ἄλλον
 μαστῆρα στείχοντα κιχησέμεν· οἱ δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 ἦλυθον, Εὐφημός τε πόδας ταχὺς υἷε τε δοιῶ
 Θρηκίου Βορέω, μεταμῶνια μοχθήσαντε.

Κάνθε, σὲ δ' οὐλόμεναι Λιβύῃ ἐνὶ Κῆρες ἔλοντο.
 πῶεσι φερβομένοισι συνήντεες· εἶπετο δ' ἀνὴρ
 αὐλίτης, ὃ σ' ἐὼν μῆλων πέρι, τόφρ' ἐτάριοισιν
 δευομένοις κομίσειας, ἀλεξόμενος κατέπεφνεν
 λαῖ βαλὼν· ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ἀφαιρότερός γ' ἐτέτυκτο,
 νύωνος Φοῖβοιο Λυκωρείοιο Κάφαυρος 1490
 κούρης τ' αἰδοίης Ἀκακαλλίδος, ἣν ποτε Μίνως

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

was stirred. The two sons of Boreas started up, trusting in their wings; and Euphemus, relying on his swift feet, and Lynceus to cast far his piercing eyes; and with them darted off Canthus, the fifth. He was urged on by the doom of the gods and his own courage, that he might learn for certain from Heracles where he had left Polyphemus, son of Eilatus; for he was minded to question him on every point concerning his comrade. But that hero had founded a glorious city among the Mysians, and, yearning for his home-return, had passed far over the mainland in search of Argo; and in time he reached the land of the Chalybes, who dwell near the sea; there it was that his fate subdued him. And to him a monument stands under a tall poplar, just facing the sea. But that day Lynceus thought he saw Heracles all alone, far off, over measureless land, as a man at the month's beginning sees, or thinks he sees, the moon through a bank of cloud. And he returned and told his comrades that no other searcher would find Heracles on his way, and they also came back, and swift-footed Euphemus and the twin sons of Thracian Boreas, after a vain toil.

But thee, Canthus, the fates of death seized in Libya. On pasturing flocks didst thou light; and there followed a shepherd who, in defence of his own sheep, while thou wert leading them off¹ to thy comrades in their need, slew thee by the cast of a stone; for he was no weakling, Caphaurus, the grandson of Lycorean Phoebus and the chaste maiden Acacallis, whom once Minos drove from home

¹ This seems to be the only possible translation, but the optative is quite anomalous. We should expect ἐκβμίζες.

ἐς Λιβύην ἀπένασσε θεοῦ βαρὺ κῦμα φέρουσαν,
 θυγατέρα σφετέρην· ἥ δ' ἀγλαὸν νιέα Φοῖβῳ
 τίκτεν, ὃν Ἀμφίθεμιν Γαράμαντά τε κικλή-
 σκουσιν.

Ἀμφίθεμις δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα μίγῃ Τριτωνίδι νύμφῃ·
 ἥ δ' ἄρα οἱ Νασάμωνα τέκεν κρατερόν τε Κάφαν-
 ρον,

ὃς τότε Κάνθον ἔπεφνεν ἐπὶ ῥήνεσσιν ἐοῖσιν.
 οὐδ' ὄγ' ἀριστήων χαλεπὰς ἠλεύατο χεῖρας,
 ὥς μάθον οἶον ἔρεξε. νέκυν δ' ἀνάειραν ὀπίσσω
 πευθόμενοι Μινύαι, γαίῃ δ' ἐνὶ ταρχύσαντο
 μυρόμενοι· τὰ δὲ μῆλα μετὰ σφέας οἶγ' ἐκόμισσαν.

150

Ἔνθα καὶ Ἀμπυκίδην αὐτῷ ἐνὶ ἡματι Μόψον
 νηλειῆς ἔλε πότμος· ἀδευκέα δ' οὐ φύγεν αἶσαν
 μαντοσύναις· οὐ γάρ τις ἀποτροπή θανάτοιο.
 κείτο δ' ἐπὶ ψαμάθοισι μεσημβρινὸν ἡμαρ ἀλύ-
 σκων

δεινὸς ὄφεις, νωθῆς μὲν ἐκὼν ἀέκοντα χαλέψαι·
 οὐδ' ἂν ὑποτρέσαντος ἐνωπαδὶς αἵξειεν.

ἀλλὰ μὲν ὧ τὰ πρῶτα μελάγχχιμον ἰὼν ἐνείῃ
 ζώντων, ὅσα γαῖα φερέσβιος ἔμπνοα βόσκει,
 οὐδ' ὀπόσον πήχυιον ἐς Ἄϊδα γίγνεται οἶμος,
 οὐδ' εἰ Παιήων, εἴ μοι θέμις ἀμφαδὸν εἰπεῖν,
 φαρμάσσοι, ὅτε μῦνον ἐνιχρίμψῃσιν ὁδοῦσιν.
 εὔτε γὰρ ἰσόθεος Λιβύην ὑπερέπτατο Περσεὺς
 Εὐρυμέδων—καὶ γὰρ τὸ κάλεσκέ μιν οὔνομα
 μήτηρ—

151

Γοργόνος ἀρτίτομον κεφαλὴν βασιλῇ κομίζων,
 ὅσσαι κυανέου στάγες αἵματος οὐδας ἵκοντο,
 αἱ πᾶσαι κείνων ὀφίων γένος ἐβλάστησαν.

τῷ δ' ἄκρην ἐπ' ἄκανθαν ἐνεστηρίξατο Μόψος
 λαὶὸν ἐπιπροφέρων ταρσὸν ποδός· αὐτὰρ ὁ μέσσην

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

to dwell in Libya, his own daughter, when she was bearing the gods' heavy load; and she bare to Phoebus a glorious son, whom they call Amphithemis and Garamas. And Amphithemis wedded a Tritonian nymph; and she bare to him Nasamon and strong Caphaurus, who on that day in defending his sheep slew Canthus. But he escaped not the chieftains' avenging hands, when they learned the deed he had done. And the Minyae, when they knew it, afterwards took up the corpse and buried it in the earth, mourning; and the sheep they took with them.

Thereupon on the same day a pitiless fate seized Mopsus too, son of Ampycus; and he escaped not a bitter doom by his prophesying; for there is no averting of death. Now there lay in the sand, avoiding the midday heat, a dread serpent, too sluggish of his own will to strike at an unwilling foe, nor yet would he dart full face at one that would shrink back. But into whatever of all living beings that life-giving earth sustains that serpent once injects his black venom, his path to Hades becomes not so much as a cubit's length, not even if Paeëon, if it is right for me to say this openly, should tend him, when its teeth have only grazed the skin. For when over Libya flew godlike Perseus Eurymedon—for by that name his mother called him—bearing to the king the Gorgon's head newly severed, all the drops of dark blood that fell to the earth, produced a brood of those serpents. Now Mopsus stepped on the end of its spine, setting thereon the sole of his left foot; and it writhed round in pain and bit and

κερκίδα καὶ μυῶνα, περίξ ὀδύνῃσιν ἐλιχθείς, 152
 σάρκα δακὼν ἐχάραξεν. ἀτὰρ Μήδεια καὶ ἄλλαι
 ἔτρεσαν ἀμφίπολοι· ὁ δὲ φοῖνιον ἑλκος ἄφασσεν
 θαρσαλέως, ἔνεκ' οὐ μιν ὑπέρβιον ἄλγος ἔτειρεν.
 σχέτλιος· ἦ τέ οἱ ἤδη ὑπὸ χροῖ δύετο κῶμα
 λυσιμελές, πολλή δὲ κατ' ὀφθαλμῶν χέετ' ἀχλὺς.
 αὐτίκα δὲ κλίνας δαπέδῳ βεβαρηότα γυῖα
 ψύχετ' ἀμχανίῃ· ἔταροι δὲ μιν ἀμφαγέροντο
 ἥρως τ' Αἰσονίδης, ἀδινῇ περιθαμβέες ἄτη.
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἐπὶ τυτθὸν ἀποφθίμενός περ ἔμελλεν 1530
 κεῖσθαι ὑπ' ἡελίῳ. πύθεσκε γὰρ ἔνδοθι σάρκας
 ἰὸς ἄφαρ, μυδόωσα δ' ἀπὸ χροὸς ἔρρεε λάχνη.
 αἶψα δὲ χαλκείῃσι βαθὺν τάφον ἐξελάχαινον
 ἐσσυμένως μακέλῃσιν· ἐμοιρήσαντο δὲ χαίτας
 αὐτοὶ ὁμῶς κοῦραί τε, νέκυν ἐλεεῖν ἀπαθόντα
 μυρόμενοι· τρὶς δ' ἀμφὶ σὺν ἔντεσι δινηθέντες
 εὖ κτερέων ἴσχοντα, χυτὴν ἐπὶ γαίαν ἔθεντο.
 Ἄλλ' ὅτε δὴ ῥ' ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔβαν, πρήσοντος ἀήτεω
 ἄμ πέλαγος νοτίοιο, πόρους τ' ἀπετεκμαίροντο
 λίμνης ἐκπρομολεῖν Τριτωνίδος, οὔτινα μῆτιν 1540
 δὴν ἔχον, ἀφραδέως δὲ πανημέριοι φορέοντο.
 ὥς δὲ δράκων σκολιὴν εἰλιγμένος ἔρχεται οἶμον,
 εὐτέ μιν ὀξύτατον θάλπει σέλας ἡελίοιο·
 ῥοίζῳ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κάρη στρέφει, ἐν δέ οἱ ὅσσε
 σπινθαρύγεσσι πυρὸς ἐναλίγκια μαιμῶοντι
 λάμπεται, ὄφρα μυχόνδε διὰ ῥωχμοῖο δύνῃται·
 ὥς Ἀργῶ λίμνης στόμα ναύπορον ἐξερέουσα
 ἀμφεπόλει δηναιὸν ἐπὶ χρόνον. αὐτίκα δ' Ὀρφεὺς
 κέκλετ' Ἀπόλλωνος τρίποδα μέγαν ἔκτοθι νηὸς
 δαίμοσιν ἐγγενέταις νόστῳ ἔπι μείλια θέσθαι.
 καὶ τοὶ μὲν Φοίβου κτέρας ἴδρυνον ἐν χθονὶ βάντες· 1550

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

tore the flesh between the shin and the muscles. And Medea and her handmaids fled in terror ; but Canthus bravely felt the bleeding wound ; for no excessive pain harassed him. Poor wretch ! Already a numbness that loosed his limbs was stealing beneath his skin, and a thick mist was spreading over his eyes. Straightway his heavy limbs sank helplessly to the ground and he grew cold ; and his comrades and the hero, Aeson's son, gathered round, marvelling at the close-coming doom. Nor yet though dead might he lie beneath the sun even for a little space. For at once the poison began to rot his flesh within, and the hair decayed and fell from the skin. And quickly and in haste they dug a deep grave with mattocks of bronze ; and they tore their hair, the heroes and the maidens, bewailing the dead man's piteous suffering ; and when he had received due burial rites, thrice they marched round the tomb in full armour, and heaped above him a mound of earth.

But when they had gone aboard, as the south wind blew over the sea, and they were searching for a passage to go forth from the Tritonian lake, for long they had no device, but all the day were borne on aimlessly. And as a serpent goes writhing along his crooked path when the sun's fiercest rays scorch him ; and with a hiss he turns his head to this side and that, and in his fury his eyes glow like sparks of fire, until he creeps to his lair through a cleft in the rock ; so Argo seeking an outlet from the lake, a fairway for ships, wandered for a long time. Then straightway Orpheus bade them bring forth from the ship Apollo's massy tripod and offer it to the gods of the land as propitiation for their return. So they went forth and set Apollo's gift on the shore ; then

τοῖσιν δ' αἰζηῷ ἐναλίγκιος ἀντεβόλησεν
Τρίτων εὐρυβίης, γαίης δ' ἀνὰ βῶλον αἰείρας
ξεῖνι' ἀριστήεσσι προῖσχετο, φώνησέν τε·

‘Δέχθε, φίλοι· ἐπεὶ οὐ περιώσιον ἐγγυαλίζαι
ἐνθάδε νῦν πάρ' ἐμοὶ ξεινήιον ἀντομένοισιν.
εἰ δέ τι τῆσδε πόρους μαίεσθ' ἄλός, οἷά τε πολλὰ
ἄνθρωποι χατέουσιν ἐν ἄλλοδαπῇ περόωντες,
ἐξερέω. δὴ γάρ με πατήρ ἐπίστορα πόντου
θῆκε Ποσειδάων τοῦδ' ἔμμεναι. αὐτὰρ ἀνάσσω
παρραλίας, εἰ δὴ τιν' ἀκούετε νόσφιν ἑόντες
Εὐρύπυλον Λιβύη θηροτρόφῳ ἐγγεγαῶτα.’

156

‘Ὡς ἡῦδα· πρόφρων δ' ὑπερέσχεθε βῶλακι
χεῖρας
Εὐφημος, καὶ τοῖα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·
‘Ἀπίδα¹ καὶ πέλαγος Μινώιον εἰ νύ που, ἦρως,
ἐξεδάης, νημερτὲς ἀνειρομένοισιν ἔνισπε.
δεῦρο γὰρ οὐκ ἐθέλοντες ἰκάνομεν, ἀλλὰ βαρείαις
χρίμψαντες γαίης ἐπὶ πείρασι τῆσδε θυέλλαις
νῆα μεταχρονίην ἐκομίσσαμεν ἐς τόδε λίμνης
χεῦμα δι' ἠπείρου βεβαρημένοι· οὐδέ τι ἴδμεν,
πῇ πλόος ἐξανέχει Πελοπηίδα γαῖαν ἰκέσθαι.’

157

‘Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· ὁ δὲ χεῖρα τανύσσατο, δεῖξε δ'
ἄπωθεν
φωνήσας πόντον τε καὶ ἀγχιβαθὲς στόμα λίμνης·
‘Κεῖνῃ μὲν πόντοιο διήλυσις, ἐνθα μάλιστα
βένθος ἀκίνητον μελανεῖ· ἐκάτερθε δὲ λευκαὶ
ῥηγμῖνες φρίσσουσι διαυγέες· ἡ δὲ μεσηγὺ
ῥηγμίνων στεινὴ τελέθει ὁδὸς ἐκτὸς ἐλάσσαι.
κεῖνο δ' ὑπὲριον θείην Πελοπηίδα γαῖαν
εἰσανέχει πέλαγος Κρήτης ὕπερ· ἀλλ' ἐπὶ χειρὸς

¹ Ἀπίδα a variant in scholia : Ἀτθίδα MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

before them stood, in the form of a youth, far-swaying Triton, and he lifted a clod from the earth and offered it as a stranger's gift, and thus spake :

"Take it, friends, for no stranger's gift of great worth have I here by me now to place in the hands of those who beseech me. But if ye are searching for a passage through this sea, as often is the need of men passing through a strange land, I will declare it. For my sire Poseidon has made me to be well versed in this sea. And I rule the shore—if haply in your distant land you have ever heard of Eurypylus, born in Libya, the home of wild beasts."

Thus he spake, and readily Euphemus held out his hands towards the clod, and thus addressed him in reply :

"If haply, hero, thou knowest aught of Apis¹ and the sea of Minos, tell us truly, who ask it of you. For not of our will have we come hither, but by the stress of heavy storms have we touched the borders of this land, and have borne our ship aloft on our shoulders to the waters of this lake over the mainland, grievously burdened ; and we know not where a passage shows itself for our course to the land of Pelops."

So he spake ; and Triton stretched out his hand and showed afar the sea and the lake's deep mouth, and then addressed them : "That is the outlet to the sea, where the deep water lies unmoved and dark ; on each side roll white breakers with shining crests ; and the way between for your passage out is narrow. And that sea stretches away in mist to the divine land of Pelops beyond Crete ;

¹ An old name of the Peloponnesus.

δεξιτερῆς, λίμνηθεν ὅτ' εἰς ἄλὸς οἶδμα βάλητε,
τόφρ' αὐτὴν παρὰ χέρσον ἐργμένοι ἰθύνεσθε,
ἔστ' ἂν ἄνω τείνησι· περιρρήδην δ' ἐτέρωσε
κλινομένης χέρσοιο, τότε πλόος ὕμιν ἀπήμων
ἀγκῶνος τέτατ' ἰθὺς ἀπὸ προύχοντος ἰοῦσιν.
ἀλλ' ἴτε γηθόσυνοι, καμάτοιο δὲ μήτις ἀνίη
γιγνέσθω, νεότητι κεκασμένα γυῖα μογῆσαι.'

1580

Ἴσκεν ἐνφρονέων· οἱ δ' αἰψ' ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔβησαν
λίμνης ἐκπρομολεῖν λεληημένοι εἰρεσίησιν.
καὶ δὴ ἐπιπρονέοντο μεμαότες· αὐτὰρ ὁ τείως
Τρίτων ἀνθέμενος τρίποδα μέγαν, εἴσατο λίμνην
εἰσβαίνειν· μετὰ δ' οὔτις ἐσέδρακεν, οἷον ἄφαντος
αὐτῷ σὺν τρίποδι σχεδὸν ἔπλετο. τοῖσι δ' ἰάνθη
θυμός, ὃ δὴ μακάρων τις ἐναΐσιμος ἀντεβόλησεν.
καὶ ῥά οἱ Αἰσονίδην μήλων ὃ τι φέρτατον ἄλλων
ἦνωγον ῥέξαι καὶ ἐπευφημῆσαι ἐλόντα.

1590

αἰψα δ' ὄγ' ἐσσυμένως ἐκρίνατο, καὶ μιν ἀείρας
σφάξε κατὰ πρύμνης, ἐπὶ δ' ἔννεπεν εὐχολῆσιν·
'Δαῖμον, ὅτις λίμνης ἐπὶ πείρασι τῆσδ' ἐφαάνθης,
εἴτε σέγε Τρίτων', ἄλιον τέρας, εἴτε σε Φόρκυν,
ἢ Νηρῆα θύγατρεις ἐπικλείουσ' ἄλοσύδναι,
ἵλαθι, καὶ νόστοιο τέλος θυμηδὲς ὅπαζε.'

1600

Ἦ ῥ', ἅμα δ' εὐχολῆσιν ἐς ὕδατα λαιμοτομήσας
ἦκε κατὰ πρύμνης· ὁ δὲ βένθεος ἐξεφαάνθη
τοῖος ἑὼν, οἷός περ ἐτήτυμος ἦεν ἰδέσθαι.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀνὴρ θοὸν ἵππον ἐπ' εὐρέα κύκλον ἀγῶνος
στέλλῃ, ὀρεξάμενος λασίης εὐπειθέα χαίτης,
εἶθαρ ἐπιτροχάων, ὁ δ' ἐπ' αὐχένι γαῦρος ἀερθεῖς
ἔσπεται, ἀργινόεντα δ' ἐνὶ στομάτεσσι χαλινὰ

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

but hold to the right, when ye have entered the swell of the sea from the lake, and steer your course hugging the land, as long as it trends to the north; but when the coast bends, falling away in the other direction, then your course is safely laid for you if ye go straight forward from the projecting cape. But go in joy, and as for labour let there be no grieving that limbs in youthful vigour should still toil."

He spake with kindly counsel; and they at once went aboard, intent to come forth from the lake by the use of oars. And eagerly they sped on; meanwhile Triton took up the mighty tripod, and they saw him enter the lake; but thereafter did no one mark how he vanished so near them along with the tripod. But their hearts were cheered, for that one of the blessed had met them in friendly guise. And they bade Aeson's son offer to him the choicest of the sheep and when he had slain it chant the hymn of praise. And straightway he chose in haste and raising the victim slew it over the stern, and prayed with these words:

"Thou god, who hast manifested thyself on the borders of this land, whether the daughters born of the sea call thee Triton, the great sea-marvel, or Phorcys, or Nireus, be gracious, and grant the return home dear to our hearts."

He spake, and cut the victim's throat over the water and cast it from the stern. And the god rose up from the depths in form such as he really was. And as when a man trains a swift steed for the broad race-course, and runs along, grasping the bushy mane, while the steed follows obeying his master, and rears his neck aloft in his pride, and the

ἀμφὶς ὀδακτάζοντι παραβλήδην κροτέονται
 ὥς ὄγ' ἐπισχόμενος γλαφυρῆς ὀλκήϊον Ἀργοῦς
 ἦγ' ἄλαδε προτέρωσε· δέμας δέ οἱ ἐξ ὑπάτοιο
 κράατος, ἀμφί τε νῶτα καὶ ἰξύας ἔστ' ἐπὶ νηδὺν
 ἀντικρὺ μακάρεσσι φυὴν ἔκπαγλον ἔϊκτο·
 αὐτὰρ ὑπαὶ λαγόνων δίκραιρά οἱ ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 κήτεος ὀλκαίη μηχανέτο· κόπτε δ' ἀκάνθαις
 ἄκρον ὕδωρ, αἵτε σκολιοῖς ἐπινειόθι κέντροις
 μήνης ὥς κεράεσσιν ἐειδόμεναι διχόωντο.
 τόφρα δ' ἄγην, τείως μιν ἐπιπροέηκε θαλάσση
 νισσομένην· δῦ δ' αἶψα μέγαν βυθόν· οἱ δ' ὁμάδη-
 σαν

1610

ἥρωες, τέρας αἶνόν ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδόντες.
 ἔνθα μὲν Ἀργῶός τε λιμὴν καὶ σήματα νηὸς
 ἠδὲ Ποσειδάωνος ἰδὲ Τρίτωνος ἔασιν
 βωμοί· ἐπεὶ κεῖν' ἡμαρ ἐπέσχεθον. αὐτὰρ ἐς ἡῶ
 λαΐφεσι πεπταμένοις αὐτὴν ἐπὶ δεξι' ἔχοντες
 γαῖαν ἐρημαίην, πνοιῇ ζεφύροιο θέεσκον.
 ἦρι δ' ἔπειτ' ἀγκῶνά θ' ὁμοῦ μυχάτην τε θάλασσαν
 κεκλιμένην ἀγκῶνος ὕπερ προύχοντος ἴδοντο.
 αὐτίκα δὲ ζέφυρος μὲν ἐλώφειν, ἥλυθε δ' αὔρη
 ἀργεστᾶο νότου· κεχάροντο δὲ θυμὸν ἰωῇ.
 ἦμος δ' ἠέλιος μὲν ἔδν, ἀνὰ δ' ἥλυθεν ἀστήρ
 αὔλιος, ὅστ' ἀνέπαυσεν οἰζυροὺς ἀροτῆρας,
 δὴ τότε ἔπειτ' ἀνέμοιο κελαινῇ νυκτὶ λιπόντος
 ἰστία λυσάμενοι περιμήκεά τε κλίναντες
 ἰστόν, ἐυξέστησιν ἐπερρώοντ' ἐλάτησιν
 παννύχιοι καὶ ἐπ' ἡμαρ, ἐπ' ἡματι δ' αὖτις ἰοῦσαν
 νύχθ' ἐτέρην. ὑπέδεκτο δ' ἀπόπροθι παιπαλόεσσα
 Κάρπαθος· ἔνθεν δ' οἷγε περαιώσεσθαι ἔμελλον
 Κρήτην, ἣτ' ἄλλων ὑπερέπλετο εἰν ἰλὶ νήσων.

1620

1630

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

gleaming bit rings loud as he champs it in his jaws from side to side ; so the god, seizing hollow Argo's keel, guided her onward to the sea. And his body, from the crown of his head, round his back and waist as far as the belly, was wondrously like that of the blessed ones in form ; but below his sides the tail of a sea monster lengthened far, forking to this side and that ; and he smote the surface of the waves with the spines, which below parted into curving fins, like the horns of the new moon. And he guided Argo on until he sped her into the sea on her course ; and quickly he plunged into the vast abyss ; and the heroes shouted when they gazed with their eyes on that dread portent. There is the harbour of Argo and there are the signs of her stay, and altars to Poseidon and Triton ; for during that day they tarried. But at dawn with sails outspread they sped on before the breath of the west wind, keeping the desert land on their right. And on the next morn they saw the headland and the recess of the sea, bending inward beyond the jutting headland. And straightway the west wind ceased, and there came the breeze of the clear south wind ; and their hearts rejoiced at the sound it made. But when the sun sank and the star returned that bids the shepherd fold, which brings rest to wearied ploughmen, at that time the wind died down in the dark night ; so they furled the sails and lowered the tall mast and vigorously plied their polished oars all night and through the day, and again when the next night came on. And rugged Carpathus far away welcomed them ; and thence they were to cross to Crete, which rises in the sea above other islands.

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

Τοὺς δὲ Τάλως χάλκειος, ἀπὸ στιβαροῦ σκοπέ-
λοιο

ῥηγνύμενος πέτρας, εἶργε χθονὶ πείσματ' ἀνύψαι,
Δικταίην ὄρμοιο κατερχομένους ἐπιωγῆν.

1640

τὸν μὲν χαλκείης μελιηγενέων ἀνθρώπων
ρίζης λοιπὸν ἔοντα μετ' ἀνδράσιν ἡμιθέοισιν
Εὐρώπῃ Κρονίδης νήσου πόρεν ἔμμεναι οὖρον,
τρὶς περὶ χαλκείοις Κρήτην ποσὶ δινεύοντα.

ἀλλ' ἦτοι τὸ μὲν ἄλλο δέμας καὶ γυῖα τέτυκτο
χάλκεος ἡδ' ἄρρηκτος· ὑπαὶ δέ οἱ ἔσκε τένοντος
σύριγξ αἱματόεσσα κατὰ σφυρόν· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε
λεπτὸς ὑμῆν, ζωῆς, ἔχε, πείρατα καὶ θανάτοιο.

οἱ δέ, δὴ μάλα περ δεδμημένοι, αἶψ' ἀπὸ χέρσου
νῆα περιδδείσαντες ἀνακρούεσκον ἐρετμοῖς.

1650

καὶ νύ κ' ἐπισμυγερώς Κρήτης ἐκὰς ἤερθησαν,
ἀμφότερον δίψῃ τε καὶ ἄλγεσι μοχθίζοντες,
εἰ μὴ σφιν Μήδεια λιαζομένοις ἀγόρευσεν·

‘Κέκλυτέ μεν. μούνη γὰρ οἴομαι ὕμμι δαμάσ-
σειν

ἄνδρα τόν, ὅστις ὅδ' ἐστί, καὶ εἰ παγχάλκεον ἴσχει
ὄν δέμας, ὅπποτε μὴ οἱ ἐπ' ἀκάματος πέλοι αἰών.
ἀλλ' ἔχετ' αὐτοῦ νῆα θελήμονες ἐκτὸς ἐρωῆς
πετράων, εἴως κεν ἐμοὶ εἵξειε δαμῆναι.’

‘Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τοὶ μὲν ὑπὲκ βελέων ἐρύσαντο
νῆ' ἐπ' ἐρετμοῖσιν, δεδοκήμενοι ἦντινα ῥέξει

1660

μῆτιν ἀνωίστως· ἡ δὲ πτύχα πορφυρέοιο
προσχομένη πέπλοιο παρειάων ἐκάτερθεν
βήσατ' ἐπ' ἱκριόφιν· χειρὸς δέ ἐ χειρὶ μεμαρπὼς
Αἰσονίδης ἐκόμιζε διὰ κληίδας ἰοῦσαν.

ἔνθα δ' αἰοιδῆσιν μειλίσσετο, μέλπε δὲ Κῆρας
θυμοβόρους, Ἄϊδαο θοὰς κίνας, αἰ περὶ πᾶσαν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

And Talos, the man of bronze, as he broke off rocks from the hard cliff, stayed them from fastening hawsers to the shore, when they came to the roadstead of Dicte's haven. He was of the stock of bronze, of the men sprung from ash-trees, the last left among the sons of the gods; and the son of Cronos gave him to Europa to be the warder of Crete and to stride round the island thrice a day with his feet of bronze. Now in all the rest of his body and limbs was he fashioned of bronze and invulnerable; but beneath the sinew by his ankle was a blood-red vein; and this, with its issues of life and death, was covered by a thin skin. So the heroes, though outworn with toil, quickly backed their ship from the land in sore dismay. And now far from Crete would they have been borne in wretched plight, distressed both by thirst and pain, had not Medea addressed them as they turned away:

"Hearken to me. For I deem that I alone can subdue for you that man, whoever he be, even though his frame be of bronze throughout, unless his life too is everlasting. But be ready to keep your ship here beyond the cast of his stones, till he yield the victory to me."

Thus she spake; and they drew the ship out of range, resting on their oars, waiting to see what plan unlooked for she would bring to pass; and she, holding the fold of her purple robe over her cheeks on each side, mounted on the deck; and Aeson's son took her hand in his and guided her way along the thwarts. And with songs did she propitiate and invoke the Death-spirits, devourers of life, the swift hounds of Hades, who, hovering through all

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

ἡέρα δινεύουσαι ἐπὶ ζωοῖσιν ἄγονται.
 τὰς γουναζομένη τρὶς μὲν παρεκέκλετ' αἰοδαῖς,
 τρὶς δὲ λιταῖς· θεμένη δὲ κακὸν νόον, ἐχθοδουποῖσιν
 ὄμμασι χαλκείοιο Τάλω ἐμέγηρεν ὅπωπας· 1670
 λευγαλέον δ' ἐπὶ οἱ πρίην χόλον, ἐκ δ' αἰδήλα
 δείκηλα προῖαλλεν, ἐπιζάφελον κοτέουσα.

Ζεῦ πάτερ, ἦ μέγα δὴ μοι ἐνὶ φρεσὶ θάμβος ἄηται,
 εἰ δὴ μὴ νούσοισι τυπῆσί τε λυγρὸς ὄλεθρος
 ἀντιάει, καὶ δὴ τις ἀπόπροθεν ἄμμε χαλέπτει.
 ὥς ὅγε χάλκειός περ ἐὼν ὑπόειξε δαμῆναι
 Μηδείης βρίμη πολυφαρμάκου. ἂν δε βαρείας
 ὀχλίζων λάιγγας, ἐρυκέμεν ὄρμον ἰκέσθαι,
 πέτραίῳ στόνυχι χρίμψε σφυρόν· ἐκ δέ οἱ ἰχῶρ
 τηκομένῳ ἵκελος μολίβῳ ῥέεν· οὐδ' ἔτι δηρὸν 1680
 εἰστήκει προβλήτος ἐπεμβεβαὼς σκοπέλοιο.
 ἀλλ' ὥς τίς τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι πελωρίῃ ὑψύθι πεύκη,
 τήντε θοοῖς πελέκεσσιν ἔθ' ἡμιπλήγη λιπόντες
 ὕλοτόμοι δρυμοῖο κατήλυθον· ἡ δ' ὑπὸ νυκτὶ
 ῥιπῆσιν μὲν πρῶτα τινάσσεται, ὕστερον αὖτε
 πρυμνόθεν ἐξαγεῖσα κατήριπεν· ὥς ὅγε ποσσὶν
 ἀκαμάτοις τείως μὲν ἐπισταδὸν ἤωρεῖτο,
 ὕστερον αὖτ' ἀμενηνὸς ἀπείροني κάππεσε δούπῳ.
 κεῖνο μὲν οὖν Κρήτῃ ἐνὶ δὴ κνέφας ἠυλίζοντο
 ἥρωες· μετὰ δ' οἷγε νέον φαέθουσιν ἐς ἡῶ 1690
 ἱρὸν Ἀθηναίης Μινωίδος ἰδρύσαντο,
 ὕδωρ τ' εἰσαφύσαντο καὶ εἰσέβαν, ὥς κεν ἐρετμοῖς
 παμπρώτιστα βάλοιεν ὑπὲρ Σαλμωνίδος ἄκρης.

Αὐτίκα δὲ Κρηταῖον ὑπὲρ μέγα λαῖτμα θεοῖντας
 νύξ ἐφόβει, τήνπερ τε κατουλάδα κικλήσκουσιν·
 νύκτ' ὅλοην οὐκ ἄστρα δίισχανεν, οὐκ ἀμαρυγαὶ
 μήνης· οὐρανόθεν δὲ μέλαν χάος, ἡέ τις ἄλλη

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

the air, swoop down on the living. Kneeling in supplication, thrice she called on them with songs, and thrice with prayers; and, shaping her soul to mischief, with her hostile glance she bewitched the eyes of Talos, the man of bronze; and her teeth gnashed bitter wrath against him, and she sent forth baneful phantoms in the frenzy of her rage.

Father Zeus, surely great wonder rises in my mind, seeing that dire destruction meets us not from disease and wounds alone, but lo! even from afar, may be, it tortures us! So Talos, for all his frame of bronze, yielded the victory to the might of Medea the sorceress. And as he was heaving massy rocks to stay them from reaching the haven, he grazed his ankle on a pointed crag; and the ichor gushed forth like melted lead; and not long thereafter did he stand towering on the jutting cliff. But even as some huge pine, high up on the mountains, which woodmen have left half hewn through by their sharp axes when they returned from the forest—at first it shivers in the wind by night, then at last snaps at the stump and crashes down; so Talos for a while stood on his tireless feet, swaying to and fro, then at last, all strengthless, fell with a mighty thud. For that night there in Crete the heroes lay; then, just as dawn was growing bright, they built a shrine to Minoan Athena, and drew water and went aboard, so that first of all they might by rowing pass beyond Salmone's height.

But straightway as they sped over the wide Cretan sea night scared them, that night which they name the Pall of Darkness; the stars pierced not that fatal night nor the beams of the moon, but black chaos descended from heaven, or haply some other

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

ὠρώρει σκοτίη μυχάτων ἀνιοῦσα βερέθρων.
αὐτοὶ δ', εἴτ' Ἀΐδην, εἴθ' ὕδασιν ἐμφορέοντο,
ἠεῖδεν οὐδ' ὅσσον· ἐπέτρεψαν δὲ θαλάσση
νόστον, ἀμυχανέοντες, ὅπῃ φέροι. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
χεῖρας ἀνασχόμενος μεγάλη ὀπὶ Φοῖβον αὐτεῖ,
ρύσασθαι καλέων· κατὰ δ' ἔρρεεν ἀσχαλῶντι
δάκρυα· πολλὰ δὲ Πυθοῖ ὑπέσχετο, πολλὰ δ'
Ἀμύκλαις,

1700

πολλὰ δ' ἐς Ὀρτυγίην ἀπερείσια δῶρα κομίσσειν.
Λητοῖδην, τύνῃ δὲ κατ' οὐρανοῦ ἵκεο πέτρας
ρίμφα Μελαντίους ἀριήκοος, αἴτ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
ῆνται· δοιῶν δὲ μιῆς ἐφύπερθεν ὀρούσας,
δεξιτερῇ χρύσειον ἀνέσχεθες ὑψόθι τόξον·
μαρμαρέην δ' ἀπέλαμψε βιὸς περὶ πάντοθεν αἶγλην. 1710
τοῖσι δέ τις Σποράδων βαιὴ ἀπὸ τόφρ' ἐφάανθη
νῆσος ἰδεῖν, ὀλίγης Ἴππουρίδος ἀντία νήσου,
ἔνθ' εὐνὰς ἐβάλλοντο καὶ ἔσχεθον· αὐτίκα δ' ἠὼς
φέγγεν ἀνερχομένη· τοὶ δ' ἀγλαὸν Ἀπόλλωνι
ἄλσει ἐνὶ σκιερῷ τέμενος σκίοεντά τε βωμὸν
ποίεον, Αἶγλήτην μὲν εὐσκόπου εἵνεκεν αἶγλης
Φοῖβον κεκλόμενοι· Ἀνάφην δέ τε λισσάδα νήσου
ἵσκον, ὃ δὴ Φοῖβός μιν ἀτυζομένοις ἀνέφηνεν.
ρέζον δ' ὅσσα περ ἄνδρες ἐρημαίῃ ἐνὶ ρέζειν
ἀκτῇ ἐφοπλίσσειαν· ὃ δὴ σφεας ὀππότε δαλοῖς 1720
ὕδωρ αἰθομένοισιν ἐπιλλείβοντας ἴδοντο
Μηδείης δμῳαὶ Φαιηκίδες, οὐκέτ' ἔπειτα
ἴσχειν ἐν στήθεσσι γέλω σθένον, οἷα θαμειᾶς
αἰὲν ἐν Ἀλκινόοιο βοοκτασίας ὀρώσσαι.
τὰς δ' αἰσχροῖς ἥρωες ἐπεστοβέεσκον ἔπεσιν
χλεύῃ γηθόσυνοι· γλυκερὴ δ' ἀνεδαίετο τοῖσιν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

darkness came, rising from the nethermost depths. And the heroes, whether they drifted in Hades or on the waters, knew not one whit; but they committed their return to the sea in helpless doubt whither it was bearing them. But Jason raised his hands and cried to Phoebus with mighty voice, calling on him to save them; and the tears ran down in his distress; and often did he promise to bring countless offerings to Pytho, to Amyclae, and to Ortygia. And quickly, O son of Leto, swift to hear, didst thou come down from heaven to the Melantian rocks, which lie there in the sea. Then darting upon one of the twin peaks, thou raisedst aloft in thy right hand thy golden bow; and the bow flashed a dazzling gleam all round. And to their sight appeared a small island of the Sporades, over against the tiny isle Hippuris, and there they cast anchor and stayed; and straightway dawn arose and gave them light; and they made for Apollo a glorious abode in a shady wood, and a shady altar, calling on Phoebus the "Gleamer," because of the gleam far-seen; and that bare island they called Anaphe,¹ for that Phoebus had revealed it to men sore bewildered. And they sacrificed all that men could provide for sacrifice on a desolate strand; wherefore when Medea's Phaeacian handmaids saw them pouring water for libations on the burning brands, they could no longer restrain laughter within their bosoms, for that ever they had seen oxen in plenty slain in the halls of Alcinous. And the heroes delighted in the jest and attacked them with taunting words; and merry railing and contention flung to and fro were kindled among

¹ *i.e.* the isle of Revealing.

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

κερτομίῃ καὶ νεῖκος ἐπεσβόλον. ἐκ δέ νυ κείνης
 μολπῆς ἡρώων νήσῳ ἔνι τοῖα γυναῖκες
 ἀνδράσι δηριόωνται, ὅτ' Ἀπόλλωνα θυηλαῖς
 Αἰγλήτην Ἀνάφης τιμήορον ἰλάσκωνται.

1730

Ἄλλ' ὅτε δὴ κακείθεν ὑπεύδια πείσματ' ἔλυσαν,
 μνήσατ' ἔπειτ' Εὐφημος ὀνείρατος ἐννυχίοιο,
 ἀζόμενος Μαίης νῖα κλυτόν. εἷσατο γάρ οἱ
 δαιμονίῃ βῶλαξ ἐπιμάστιος ᾧ ἐν ἀγοστῷ
 ἄρδεσθαι λευκῇσιν ὑπὸ λιβάδεσσι γάλακτος,
 ἐκ δὲ γυνὴ βῶλοιο πέλειν ὀλίγης περ ἑούσης
 παρθενικῇ ἰκέλη· μίχθη δέ οἱ ἐν φιλότῃ
 ἄσχετον ἡμερθεῖς· ὀλοφύρετο δ' ἥύτε κούρην
 ζευξάμενος, τήντ' αὐτὸς ἐὼ ἀτίταλλε γάλακτι·
 ἥ δέ ἐ μείλιχίοισι παρηγορέεσκ' ἐπέεσσιν·

1740

Ἐκ τῶν Τρίτωνος γένος εἰμί, τῶν τροφός, ᾧ φίλε,
 παίδων,
 οὐ κούρη· Τρίτων γὰρ ἐμοὶ Λιβύῃ τε τοκῆς.
 ἀλλὰ με Νηρῆος παρακάτθεο παρθενικῇσιν
 ἅμ' ἐλάγος ναίειν Ἀνάφης σχεδόν· εἴμι δ' ἐς αὐγὰς
 ἡελίου μετόπισθε, τεοῖς νεπόδεσσιν ἐτοίμη·

Τῶν ἄρ' ἐπὶ μνήστῃν κραδίῃ βάλεν, ἐκ τ' ὀνό-
 μηνεν

Αἰσονίδῃ· ὁ δ' ἔπειτα θεοπροπίας Ἐκάτοιο
 θυμῷ πεμπάζων ἀνενείκατο φώνησέν τε·

ᾧ ὦ Πέπον, ἡ μέγα δὴ σε καὶ ἀγλαὸν ἔμμορε
 κῦδος.

βῶλακα γὰρ τεύξουσι θεοὶ πόντονδε βαλόντι
 νῆσον, ἔνθ' ὀπλότεροι παίδων σέθεν ἐννάσσονται
 παῖδες· ἐπεὶ Τρίτων ξεινήιον ἐγγυάλιξεν
 τήνδε τοι ἡπείροιο Λιβυστίδος. οὐ νύ τις ἄλλος
 ἀθανάτων, ἢ κείνος, ὅ μιν πόρεν ἀντιβολήσας·

1750

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

them. And from that sport of the heroes such scoffs do the women fling at the men in that island whenever they propitiate with sacrifices Apollo the gleaming god, the warder of Anaphe.

But when they had loosed the hawsers thrice in fair weather, then Euphemus bethought him of a dream of the night, reverencing the glorious son of Maia. For it seemed to him that the god-given clod of earth held in his palm close to his breast was being suckled by white streams of milk, and that from it, little though it was, grew a woman like a virgin; and he, overcome by strong desire, lay with her in love's embrace; and united with her he pitied her, as though she were a maiden whom he was feeding with his own milk; but she comforted him with gentle words:

"Daughter of Triton am I, dear friend, and nurse of thy children, no maiden; Triton and Libya are my parents. But restore me to the daughters of Nereus to dwell in the sea near Anaphe; I shall return again to the light of the sun, to prepare a home for thy descendants."

Of this he stored in his heart the memory, and declared it to Aeson's son; and Jason pondered a prophecy of the Far-Darter and lifted up his voice and said:

"My friend, great and glorious renown has fallen to thy lot. For of this clod when thou hast cast it into the sea, the gods will make an island, where thy children's children shall dwell; for Triton gave this to thee as a stranger's gift from the Libyan mainland. None other of the immortals it was than he that gave thee this when he met thee."

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

ὣς ἔφατ'· οὐδ' ἀλίωσεν ὑπόκρισιν Αἰσονίδαο
 Εὐφήμος· βῶλον δέ, θεοπροπίησιν ἰανθείς,
 ἦκεν ὑποβρυχίην. τῆς δ' ἔκτοθι νῆσος ἀέρθη
 Καλλίστη, παίδων ἱερὴ τροφὸς Εὐφήμοιο,
 οἳ πρὶν μὲν ποτε δὴ Σιντηίδα Λῆμνον ἔναιον,
 Λήμνου τ' ἐξελαθέντες ὑπ' ἀνδράσι Τυρσηνοῖσιν
 Σπάρτην εἰσαφίκανον ἐφέστιοι· ἐκ δὲ λιπόντας
 Σπάρτην Αὐτεσίωνος ἐὺς πάϊς ἤγαγε Θήρας
 Καλλίστην ἐπὶ νῆσον, ἀμείψατο δ' οὖνομα Θήρης
 ἐξ ἔθεν. ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν μετόπιν γένητ' Εὐφήμοιο.

1760

Κεῖθεν δ' ἀπτερέως διὰ μυρίον οἶδμα λιπόντες
 Αἰγίνης ἀκτῆσιν ἐπέσχεθον· αἶψα δὲ τοίγε
 ὑδρείης πέρι δῆριν ἀμεμφέα δηρίσαντο,
 ὅς κεν ἀφυσσάμενος φθαίῃ μετὰ νῆαδ' ἰκέσθαι.
 ἄμφω γὰρ χρειώ τε καὶ ἄσπετος οὖρος ἔπειγεν.
 ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν πλήθοντας ἐπωμαδὸν ἀμφιφορῆας
 ἀνθέμενοι κούφοισιν ἄφαρ κατ' ἀγῶνα πόδεσσιν
 κοῦροι Μυρμιδόνων νίκης πέρι δηριόωνται.

1770

"Ἰλατ' ἀριστήων μακάρων γένος· αἶδε δ' ἀοιδαὶ
 εἰς ἔτος ἐξ ἔτεος γλυκερώτεραι εἶεν ἀείδειν
 ἀνθρώποις. ἤδη γὰρ ἐπὶ κλυτὰ πείραθ' ἰκάνω
 ὑμετέρων καμάτων· ἐπεὶ οὐ νύ τις ὕμμιν ἄεθλος
 αὐτὶς ἀπ' Αἰγίνηθεν ἀνερχομένοισιν ἐτύχθη,
 οὗτ' ἀνέμων ἐριωλαὶ ἐνέσταθεν· ἀλλὰ ἔκηλοι
 γαῖην Κεκροπίνην παρά τ' Αὐλίδα μετρήσαντες
 Εὐβοίης ἐντοσθεν Ὀπούντιά τ' ἄστεα Λοκρῶν
 ἀσπασίως ἀκτὰς Παγασηίδας εἰσαπέβητε.

1780

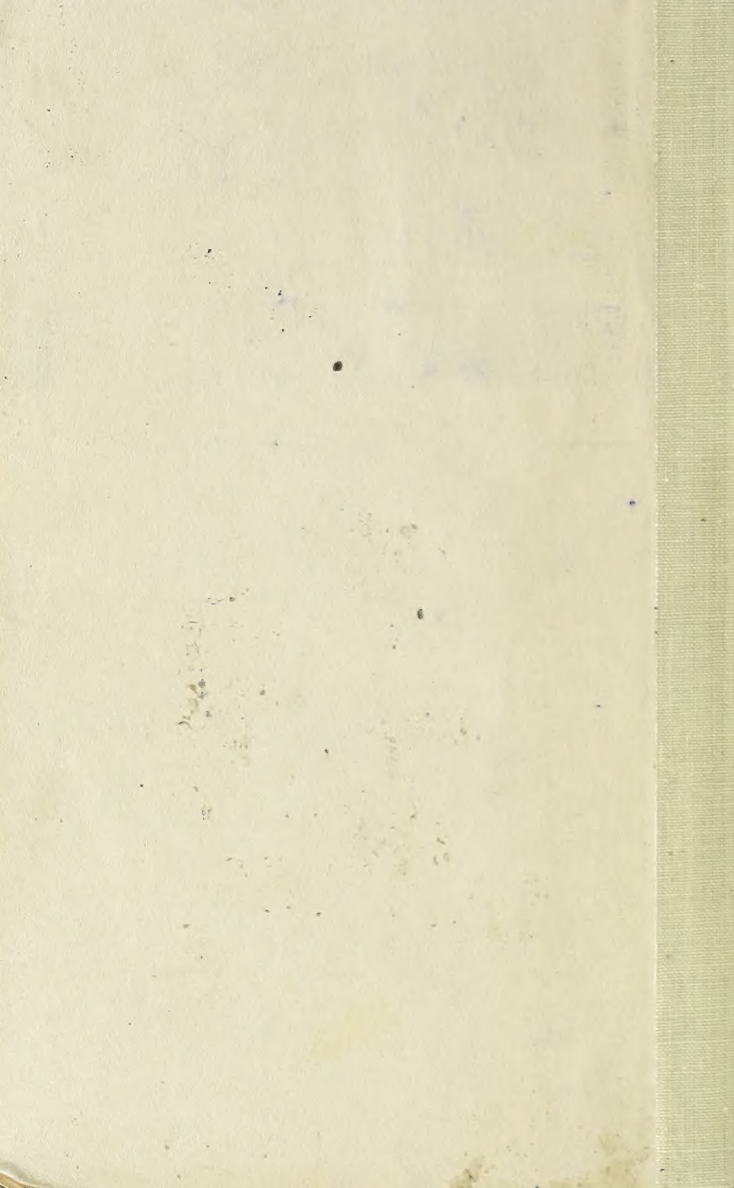
THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

Thus he spake ; and Euphemus made not vain the answer of Aeson's son ; but, cheered by the prophecy, he cast the clod into the depths. Therefrom rose up an island, Calliste, sacred nurse of the sons of Euphemus, who in former days dwelt in Sintian Lemnos, and from Lemnos were driven forth by Tyrrhenians and came to Sparta as suppliants ; and when they left Sparta, Theras, the goodly son of Autesion, brought them to the island Calliste, and from himself he gave it the name of Thera. But this befell after the days of Euphemus.

And thence they steadily left behind long leagues of sea and stayed on the beach of Aegina ; and at once they contended in innocent strife about the fetching of water, who first should draw it and reach the ship. For both their need and the ceaseless breeze urged them on. There even to this day do the youths of the Myrmidons take up on their shoulders full-brimming jars, and with swift feet strive for victory in the race.

Be gracious, race of blessed chieftains ! And may these songs year after year be sweeter to sing among men. For now have I come to the glorious end of your toils ; for no adventure befell you as ye came home from Aegina, and no tempest of winds opposed you ; but quietly did ye skirt the Cecropian land and Aulis inside of Euboea and the Opuntian cities of the Locrians, and gladly did ye step forth upon the beach of Pagasae.





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